



# St. John's Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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Issue 173

## The Sending of the Twelve Apostles

Luke 9: 1 - 9

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**Advent Services**  
Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th  
Soup Supper 6pm  
Service 7pm

**Sunday School**  
**Christmas Service**  
Dec. 20 6pm

**Christmas Eve**  
Dec. 24th 7pm & 11pm

**Christmas Day**  
Dec. 25th 9am

**Weekly Services**  
Sat. 6pm  
Sun. 9am  
Sunday School 10:20

Since the miracle of Cana, where He turned water into wine, Jesus had preached and worked chiefly in Galilee. The center of His activity had been Capernaum on the shores of the Sea of Tiberias; there He had made His home. This Galilean ministry of Jesus was now rapidly coming to a close; there would follow that slow, but unrelenting journey to Jerusalem which ended in His death. Outwardly His Galilean ministry had been a success; vast crowds had met Him wherever He appeared and welcomed Him with positive enthusiasm; they heard Him gladly. But Jesus was not deceived; the success, He knew was only the surface. There were a few faithful souls; but the crowds were fickle; today they shouted "Hosanna!" Tomorrow they would desert Him and on the next day reappear to shout: "Crucify Him!" So it would ever be; to prepare His followers for this, He told them the parable of the sower (Luke 8: 1-15). All that, however, did not deter Him from trying to the very end to save them. So Luke, in this ninth chapter, tells of the last weeks of Christ's activity in Galilee.

<sup>1</sup>And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, <sup>2</sup>and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. <sup>3</sup>And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics <sup>4</sup>And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. <sup>5</sup>And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." <sup>6</sup>And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

<sup>7</sup>Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, <sup>8</sup>by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. <sup>9</sup>Herod said, "John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he sought to see him.

Jesus had traveled all over Galilee and had performed many miracles. Again and again the Evangelists report that His fame went out into all the land (Matthew 4:24; 9:26; Mark 1:28; Luke 4:14, 37; 5:15). It is hardly possible that there should have been people in Galilee who had not heard of Him and His message. Yet Jesus, before He left that region, sent out the Twelve to preach the Kingdom of God. That was not merely a practice trip for the Apostles to give them experience for the future under His own supervision. The Lord's object was to send His Gospel into every nook and corner of the land that no one might have the excuse of ignorance.

But more, soon the Lord was going to His death; that would end His visible activity on earth. But the work of spreading His Church was to go on; and that work His Apostles and the ministers whom they would train should continue. Oh, the Lord thought not only of those who lived in His day, but of all sinners who needed His redemption to the end of days. And that means us. He died for all and wrought a full salvation for all; but all that would hold not benefit for us if He had not made provi-

*continued from page 1*

sion to have this blessed message brought to our knowledge. But the Lord leaves nothing half done; even before the work of redemption was finished, He established the ministry of the Gospel, which to the end of the world was to extend the invitation: "Come, for all things are now ready!" He is the perfect Savior, and calmly we may entrust ourselves to Him, confident that He who has begun the good work in us will also perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).

In the instructions which Jesus gave to the Twelve we find, on the one hand, directions to the preachers of the Gospel; on the other hand, also indications of what the hearers should do for the preachers. "those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel." (1 Corinthians 9:14). They should be altogether dependent upon the people whom they serve. But we who are served by them accordingly have the obligation of providing for them. If we do not, we not only show a woeful lack of gratitude for the precious message which they bring us from the Lord, but we are guilty of gross disobedience to the will of the Lord. And the Lord will not overlook this, but will call us to account for our neglect.

So the Lord provides for man's soul; He has left nothing undone. What is our reaction? There are always some who will receive the Gospel gladly to their salvation. Others, like Herod, will hear it only because their evil conscience fills them with fear; they dare not entirely break with the Church. The Gospel, the message of peace, will only serve to rob them of peace. But that is their fault entirely.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for the blessed message of Thy Gospel in which Thou hast come to us to bring us Thy redemption and salvation. We pray Thee, give power to this Word that it may open ever wider the doors of our hearts to receive Thee and to honor Thee as our only Savior from our own sinful condition and the well-deserved wrath of God. For Thy love's sake we ask it. Amen.

## **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

We wish to thank Cherie Gibes and Alysia for cleaning the grungy aquarium next to the Sunday School rooms. That was a big job well done! They are in the process of restoring Mr. Fish's environment with plants and snails donated by Lakeview Tropicals. Take time to stop by the shop at 517 N. Wisconsin St. to look around and thank owner, June Wegner Mueller, for her generosity.



## **Mission Moments**

by Rev. Meyle

God, our heavenly Father, speaks to the hearts of us, His children, through His Word in the Holy Scriptures. There He teaches us about His Son, our Savior from sin and about the Holy Spirit Who enables us to believe His words and promises. But how can a person read these words if he cannot read or has no written language?

That is why missionaries go to every nation to learn native languages. They analyze the grammar of a language and then consult with community leaders to develop an acceptable writing system. Next they form a team and using original Greek or Hebrew Biblical texts translate the Scriptures. These translations are checked and revised multiple times for accuracy before publication - a process which may take 12-20 years to complete! One student whose first language is Hawaiian Pidgin, but who also speaks English remarked, "The English Bible speaks to my head, but the Pidgin Bible speaks to my heart."

But then a person must be taught to read his own language, which may take many years. To shorten this process, the American Bible Society has started learning centers where a person can hear God's Word in his own language - either by listening to recordings or by hearing someone read to him.

God Who knows our hearts and minds and feelings, has created a most wonderful and precious learning center - "the manger in Bethlehem." There He touched our hearts and minds by giving us our Savior King. From the cradle to the grave, through the cross where He died for our sins to His victorious resurrection and ascension into heaven, He kept His promise to forgive our sins. From humble shepherds to mighty kings (Magi) millions have been touched by His love. But many more millions need to hear this message of salvation because God wants all nations to know Him in their hearts, not just in their heads. "I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord. They will be My people, and I will be their God..." Jeremiah 24: 7. This Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior King, may we rejoice that He has given us a new heart and may we reach out to the hearts of others with the good news of their Savior King.



## 7th Annual Cookie Walk

Snickerdoodles....spritz....gingerbread....cutouts....chocolate chip oatmeal....snowballs....peanut butter.....fudge...  
.rumballs....mint meltaways...

Yep... it is time for cookie and candy making!!!! Get out your recipe books (maybe you got a new WE cookbook you haven't cracked open yet!) and start thinking about baking because.....

St. John's will be hosting its 7th annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 12th from 9am to Noon. This is an opportunity for those of you who love to bake to make lots of scrumptious cookies for our sale. For those of you who would rather leave the baking to us, here is your chance to choose from a huge variety of beautiful cookies and candies. We have lots of repeat customers from our church and community who look forward to our Cookie Walk each year so come early for best selection and bake...bake and bake some more!!

There will be a sign up sheet available for bakers to note how many dozens you will donate to the sale. Also, if you would enjoy helping set up Friday, Dec 11th or help work the sale on Saturday, please sign up for that as well.

The proceeds of this sale will be partially matched by Thrivent. They will go to the Academy to help pay off the loan.

## GREAT GIFT IDEA

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation is offering Bibles with Catechisms translated into Spanish @ \$5 each, and St. John's Sunday School children have been dedicating their mission gifts for this cause. All members are encouraged to join in this effort. Envelopes and information are on the Mission table in the lobby. This is a good opportunity for a memorial or remembrance gift.

## Praise the Lord

As the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas is upon us, it is a time to reflect on the many blessings we at St. John's continue to receive.

Earlier in the year we had a major Fundraising event which culminated the end of March with a Forward in Faith service and dinner. Since that time, our church family has been very committed to assuring that our mortgage payments are covered each month. We have also been diligent in covering the operating costs of day to day business in our church. Praise the Lord for continually taking care of us!

We have also had many opportunities this year for special events where our church family came together to enjoy fellowship and fun with each other. A family that plays together stays together!

There have been opportunities for our church family to work on projects around the church building. Our kitchen, for example, is a beautiful example of volunteers coming together to make a difference. Hopefully, soon, that project will be finished for all of us to enjoy. A family that works together stays together!

Each Sunday we are blessed with the freedom and opportunity to worship and praise our Lord and Savior and thank Him for all that He did and continues to do for us. We come together to hear His true Word and receive His precious sacraments so that our faith continues to be nourished and grow.

We are blessed to have a Pastor who took the call to teach God's Word in truth and purity at St. Johns and will continue to hold steadfast to that teaching. We know in these difficult times where Pastors are teaching according to the world's desires instead of according to what the Bible says, we will continue to hear and learn what God tells us right from the Bible.

We are also blessed with teachers who are committed to assist parents in teaching our children from the Bible and catechism and who see the importance of children learning hymns and liturgy so they can be active participants in our worship services from young on.

We thank our gracious Lord for all His blessings...we thank him for sacrificing His One and Only Son to die that we may live with Him in Eternity. Praise be to God!!!

## SPECIAL SERVICE TIME

On Saturday, December 5th the service time will be at 4pm – Just this Saturday. The reason for the change on this Saturday is that St. John's will be having a float in the Port Christmas parade and Pastor will be playing his Tuba and Christian will be marching in the parade. We hope that everyone will go to church and then join in on marching in the parade to support St. John's.

## USING SCRIP FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Are you looking for some ideas to make Christmas shopping easier and more enjoyable for you as well as the people you are shopping for? Well we have a great suggestion for you. By using Scrip you don't have to worry about finding a parking space or trying to fight through the crowds of other Christmas shoppers. By purchasing scrip you have the wonderful pleasure of one stop shopping. There is a great variety of vendors to choose from, restaurants to clothing stores, sporting goods stores, hotels and many more. You can look through the huge vendor list in the comfort of your home at the website of [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com), or look through the list that is provided in the church office or lobby counter. Remember that orders are placed on Monday mornings and received in the office by Thursday. But as Christmas gets closer the turn around time can be lengthened, so the sooner you order the better. If you have any questions about how scrip works you can call the church office.

The Chaplain's Corner  
December 2009

### Gifts That Last

Every year at Christmas some retailers give the pitch, "Give the gift that keeps on giving". Most of the time the gift is received with mixed emotions. After all, a gift of membership to the "Jelly of the Month Club" for example, wears off its taste and enthusiasm after a while. Closets store those gifts, only to have them end up in a thrift store or at a rummage sale with no real lasting sentiment or value.

"For God so loved the world that He gave – The Lasting Gift – His One and Only Son that whoever – the recipient of that gift – believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" – the lasting promise that the gift will keep on giving through eternity. No material gift could ever match or replace God's gift to us. That is the reason we celebrate Jesus' birth.

The Chaplaincy Ministry has been bringing that message of the Father's Free gift of eternal life found in His Son, Jesus, to the nursing home communities for 37 years. The comfort found in Our Savior has changed resident's lives that have fallen away from the church or not know Jesus at all. When they hear of that Gift That Lasts in Christ, their lives finally know true peace.

Over the years the Chaplaincy Ministry has been in Sheboygan County, there has never been a shortage of residents to minister to. Neither will there be in the years to come. Our seniors will be the fastest growing segment of our population in the next 8 to 10 years,

with many living 10 to 30 years into retirement. The vision of the Chaplaincy is to meet the spiritual needs of the elderly in the years to come and keep giving the gift of God's Word to them.

The reality is in this economy funds are running out at an alarming rate. Gifts have dwindled down to the point that early in 2010 the Chaplaincy Ministry may cease. Our gifts through Churches, individuals and the Chaplaincy Picnic have decreased or have become non-existent. I need your help. I know individuals and churches have taken financial hits as well as the Chaplaincy. But, if many give a little, this Ministry can continue.

The Chaplaincy is challenging God's People who support this ministry, who have loved ones in our health care centers to a 1000/100 campaign. If 1,000 Churches, groups or individuals give \$100.00 as a Christmas Gift to the Chaplaincy, we will meet our financial goals in 2010. A \$100.00 gift for the entire year is a little more than 27 cents per day for the year, about 1/5th the cost of a cup of coffee. Please help us with your generous Christmas Gift for the Chaplaincy Ministry. You may send your gift to:  
Chaplaincy Ministry P.O. Box 351, Plymouth, WI 53073.  
THANK YOU and have a joyous Christmas celebrating God's Gift!

Rev. Tom Fleischmann, Chaplain  
[www.sheboygancountychaplaincy.org](http://www.sheboygancountychaplaincy.org)

## Voters Choose Pew Chairs

In action taken at the November 9th Voters Meeting, the congregation voted to purchase new seating for the sanctuary. The chairs are called pew chairs as they connect together to form a row similar to pews. Members will appreciate the upholstered, cushioned seats and backs, under seat book racks and the attractive look of the wood frames. The purchase is made possible with memorial gifts given by member families. The chairs should arrive in January or February.

In other business conducted at the meeting, voters welcomed Jeff Bandow as a new Deacon.

The treasure's report indicates that all bills are current and the mortgage has been paid on time. It was noted that the Simply Giving program, where contributions are directly received electronically, is partly responsible for the improved financial position of St. Johns. More participation in the program is encouraged.

The 2010 budget was approved with a total less than the previous year.

Mission contributions given during the 2010 year will be disbursed to LCMS at 40%, with Lutheran Heritage Foundation and Fort Wayne Seminary - International Studies, sharing the remaining 60%.

## You are invited to an Open House

**When:** Friday Dec. 4th from 6pm to 9pm

**Where:** St. John's Church

**For:** Hanging of the Greens

Come help prepare our Father's house for the celebration of the birth of Our Savior!! Come by yourself or bring your family and/or friends. There will be wreaths and garlands to hang, trees to decorate, food and refreshments to enjoy and laughter to share. If decorating is not your thing - come - sit and relax with some dessert and coffee. Questions you can call Lynda Swanson at 284-2279. Looking forward to seeing you there!!



Herzlichen Gluckwunsch Sauerkraut Entscheidungstrager.  
Ihre Bemuhungen fuhrten zu einer kostlichen Mischung.  
Fur Ihre Belohnung: Sauerkrautsuppe bei jedem Advent Abendessen.  
Pat Sie sich auf der Ruckseite  
Stoppen! Die ist genug  
Sie konnen Ihren Arm verletzt  
Nachstes Jahr werden die Kohl Betrag verdreifachten

Congratulations sauerkraut makers  
Your efforts resulted in a most delicious concoction  
For your reward, sauerkraut soup at every Advent supper  
Pat yourself on the back. That is enough  
You may hurt your arm  
Which you shall need for chopping, as next year the cabbage amount will be doubled