



St. James and St. Paul's River's Edge

St. James and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches

Volume 3, Issue 2

Missio Dei ~ Mission of God

Special points of interest:

- Above and Beyond Award goes to...
- Bible Readings are on page 3.
- If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically go to our website and enter your name and email address.

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." **Matthew 28:16-20***

There are many times that we do not live up to this command to go and make disciples of ALL NATIONS. During the month of February, we will be having several special Sundays that will help in spreading the Gospel Message to all nations.

First, on February 2, we will be remembering Lutheran Hour

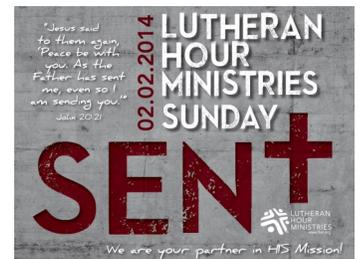
Ministries Sunday. Lutheran Hour Ministries was born out of the Lutheran Laymen's League and is a vital part of national and international ministry. On February 2, we are going to look at the theme of SENT. This is to show how Lutheran Hour Ministries sends missionaries and mission dollars across the world; this is even done through the radio and internet as a part of the Lutheran Hour Program. Lutheran Hour Ministries is also a partner to congregations as it assists in mission guidance and also with Men's Groups, like The Men's Network.

Even though Matthew 28:16-20 tells us to make disciples of all nations, Christ tells us in Acts 1:8 that we are to start in our own backyard and move out from there. To do that, on February 9 we will be hosting Camp LuWiSoMo Sunday. This will be a day where I will

share what exciting things are going on at camp for all ages, especially our young people. The message for the day will focus on the 2014 Summer Camp Theme, "Get Outta the Boat".

On these Sundays, there will also be an opportunity for a special offering taken for each of these ministries.

As I remain here as your pastor, I would ask that we become two mission-focused congregations, both to our communities and also to our world. It is time that we live as the hands, feet, and voices of God.



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St. Paul's News and Notes

Hi, Everyone!

It's starting another cold snap as I compose this article, so I'm sending "warm" wishes to you all. It sure has been more of an old-fashioned winter, hasn't it? I hope our snowmobile and ski enthusiasts have been enjoying themselves.

I pray that St. James' Cabin Fever Dinner goes (went) well. Jim and I have been having that "cabin fever" feeling and we're planning

to come. What a wonderful idea, thanks so much! Speaking of a nice meal, St. Paul's next Soup & Sandwich luncheon will be on Wednesday, the 12th. It's another good opportunity for you to get out of the house and be blessed with some fellowship, too.

St. Paul's Ladies Group has new officers and is ready to SERVE! All ladies are encouraged to join us for our meetings which will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. here at

church. Each meeting will start with a short devotion and we'll enjoy a light snack afterwards.

Our quarterly meeting will be held on Sunday, the 16th after church. It's also Fellowship Sunday, so there will be a good cup of coffee along with goodies.

I've got to pass along my continuing invitation for you to join us for Sunday morning Bible class. In our study of understanding the

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PreSchool News

January was COLD!! And we had an extra day of vacation because of that. We had a New Year's Party with hats and horns and had a fun time.

We had great Bible stories: "Jesus in the Temple", "The Baptism of Jesus", "Jesus Calls the Disciples" and "Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man". It is so hard to understand that we just celebrated the birth of Jesus and now He is a grown man

already. Can be confusing to 3 and 4 year olds.

Our color was blue and we worked on the letters Q, R, S, and T. We are also working on our counting the days of the month and sharing with our friends. Socialization was one of our main themes as it was hard to get back into the swing of things after our vacation. But it was a good month.



God's Blessings,

Daemen, Isabella, Josiah, Mikaylee, Maddix, Channing, Sofi, and of course, Sandy

Firing up the Youth

Firing up the youth is hard to do. Especially when it's cold. I've been asking the question since I was in youth group, how can we attract the young people back to the church?

It is hard to do. I can dwell on the negatives and ask why have so many of our "fun activities" failed? They seem to be good ideas.

Yet when we were planning our trip to the National Youth Gath-

ering, we at least had a few kids and parents involved.

My question is this: Is there something that our youth can be working towards even if it isn't a trip where they will be influenced by other young people and other Christians?

I don't want to dwell on the negatives. There have been positives. In recent history I can remember kids having fun baking pies and

cookies. We've had fun on the side of the road with our brat fries. We had fun on a bus to Texas and the entire trip. There's been amazing times bowling and playing in the snow.

My prayer is that our youth will once again want to become active in their faith life.

Pastor Mike Nielsen

Children's Ministry

In the coming months, we will be learning more about this summer's Vacation Bible School Program, *Gangway to Galilee*. We welcome aboard our new director, Maribeth Stivers.

Please stay tuned for further information and to volunteer for this year's VBS. As the

planning process begins, please pray that we will get an ample amount of kids to witness and share the message of Jesus.

As we think about VBS, we are still in the middle of winter and Sunday School is still going on. Please come and join Christa Chisick and Penny Oens who teach the 3 year olds-5th grade

classes. What a blessing they are. We would definitely like to see more kids in our Sunday School classes as well.



Birthdays/Anniversaries

St. James Birthdays

1st-Cynthia Smith
 7th-Penny Oens
 11th-Tiffany Schmidt
 14th-Deb Ennis
 Milt Smith
 17th-Lois Lazeration
 19th-Eden Brooks
 Kris Brooks
 Fred Gregar
 Hannah Nielsen
 21st-Terry Schmidt
 22nd-Jeremy Fischer

3rd-Roland Huebner
 8th-Kim Skibba
 10th-Margaret Huebner
 20th-Lori Klein
 24th-James Herms



St. Paul's Birthdays

Above and Beyond Award

Over the last year or so the Vision Committee has been coming up with areas to focus on in the church. We have come up with Family's, Seniors, and Community. Over the last several months we have sponsored several different events including a funeral planning seminar and the Angel Tree. Both of these were a success.

February 1 we will be hosting our third event, our Cabin Fever Outreach Dinner. This is a free meal for the community and a way to get people into our church doors.

With all that being said, this month's Above and Beyond Award goes to my fellow members of the Vision Com-

mittee, Ken Hornburg and Maribeth Stivers. Take a chance to say thank you for their hard work.

We would like to see a few more team members join us as we work towards sponsoring more events in the future.

"The January Above and Beyond Award goes to Ken Hornburg and Maribeth Stivers"

Bible Readings for February

Week 5

February 3 – Genesis 45:1-46:34
 February 4 – Genesis 47:1-48:22
 February 5 – Genesis 49:1-50:26
 February 6 – Exodus 1:1-22
 February 7 – Exodus 2:1-25
 February 8 – Exodus 3:1-4:31
 February 9 – Come to the Lord's House and Worship Him

Week 6

February 10 – Exodus 5:1-6:30
 February 11 – Exodus 7:1-25
 February 12 – Exodus 8:1-9:35
 February 13 – Exodus 10:1-29
 February 14 – Exodus 11:1-12:51

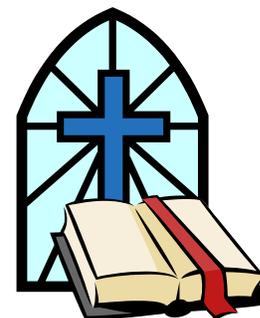
February 15 – Exodus 13:1-22
 February 16 – Come to the Lord's House and Worship Him

Week 7

February 17 – Exodus 14:1-31
 February 18 – Exodus 15:1-27
 February 19 – Exodus 16:1-17:16
 February 20 – Exodus 18:1-27
 February 21 – Exodus 19:1-20:26
 February 22 – Exodus 21:1-22:31
 February 23 – Come to the Lord's House and Worship Him

Week 8

February 24 – Exodus 23:1-24:18
 February 25 – Exodus 25:1-27:21
 February 26 – Exodus 28:1-29:46
 February 27 – Exodus 30:1-31:18
 February 28 – Exodus 32:1-35
 March 1 – Exodus 33:1-23
 March 2 – Come to the Lord's House and Worship Him



Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Reaching In With the Lord



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Bible we're in a new section of the Old Testament, the poetry books. The author of our study explains things so well that our grasp of the Bible is growing every week! If you think you can't comprehend the Bible give this material a chance. You will be amazed at how much you can learn, understand and apply to your life!

I'm a fan of the writing/teaching of Joyce Meyer. In her daily devotional, "Trusting God Day by Day," she pointed out that the tiny word "all" is used 5,675 times in the Bible (give or take a few depending on which translation you are reading). It's a small word but means a great deal. So often we pay little attention to it. If we read a Scripture

that has the word all in it and ignore the all, it changes the entire context of the Scripture. Where does all stop? How far does it go and what does it include? Jesus is the Lord of all. Our All-mighty God, all-sufficient Savior, all blessings flow from Him, and He is all that we need. We say that God is our all, but have we ever stopped to truly understand the impact of that one little word? "All" leaves nothing outside of God's control.

Jim and I wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day! Guys (gals, too!) don't forget your sweetheart on this sentimental time of the year.

Until next month, God Bless, take care, stay safe and warm...brrrr—Deb

