

FEBRUARY



2016

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

910 S. St. Augustine Street
Pulaski, WI 54162

(920) 822-3511

www.stjohnpulaskiwi.org



The GOOD NEWS Gazette



ASHES & HEARTS

Ashes and hearts make a funny combination, but that's exactly what this month brings us. Within the span of four short days, heads will be smeared with ashes and red hearts will be laid over everything. The words "Dust you are and to dust shall you return" will echo in your ears as "Will you be my valentine?" begins to ring out. These two days of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day seem to contradict each other, but they don't oppose each other as much as you might think.

The ashes for Ash Wednesday are a reminder of the repentance of the Old Testament. When God showed people the severity of their sin, they would put ashes on their heads to observe that they had violated God's Law and their hearts were turned. There's nothing pretty or lovely or attractive about ashes. The soot of a fire, the ashes of a fireplace, and the grittiness of a

fire pit have no business on your forehead. But you are dust and ash. You have done exactly what God told you not to do. The gritty, dirty, nasty ashes that are smeared on your forehead are just as black and gross as the sin that lives in your heart.

Even on Valentine's Day, that heart that is so often pictured as red is black with sin. Your love that you promise to others and that desires to be loving and kind to others that you express around Valentines Day is imperfect. 1 Corinthians 13 describes love as patient, kind, and does no wrong, among other things. Are you patient, kind, and do no wrong? If so, are you always like that? Or do you fail regularly & constantly? On this day that so many around you celebrate love, how



(Continued on page 2)

LENT SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY—7 PM
Wednesday, Feb. 10

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE
7 pm Thursday
February: 18 & 25
March: 3, 10, & 17

What's Inside:

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LENT MIDWEEK MEAL

This year during the Lenten Soup & Sandwich meals, various groups from within the church will be hosting the meal. If you desire to host an empty slot, please contact the church office. Members are encouraged to sign up weekly to bring either a dessert or sandwiches to share.



- ASH WEDNESDAY**
- FEB. 10:** Ladies Guild
- FEB. 18:** Elders
- FEB. 25:** Church Council
- MARCH 3:** S.S. Teachers
- MARCH 10:** - OPEN-
- MARCH 17:** - OPEN-

(Continued from page 1)

tempted are you by frustration, anger, irritation, and even hate? Do you struggle with jealousy, selfishness, and a desire to show off in front of others? Those things are the very opposite of love. You're not as loving as God has called you to be. Your heart is tainted by the grittiness of your sinfulness.

But these thoughts about you and the truth of your sin aren't warm and fuzzy. They are far from encouraging. But the ashes smeared on your forehead are a sign of the love of Jesus in the middle of your lovelessness.

If Jesus didn't care about you and about setting sin right, there would be no call to repent. If Jesus didn't care, He would have written you off long ago. The fact is that Scripture is full of calls to repentance and describes the continual work of Jesus Christ to seek and save sinners. He talks about shepherds looking for sheep, widows looking for coins, fathers looking for sons, kings forgiving the debts of their servants, and more. The Old

Testament talks about many of these same things, as God is patient while Abraham begs for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, as God restores David after his sin, as God sends His prophets like Hosea who compare God to a husband who seeks out and takes back his wife after complete betrayal. If God didn't care, He wouldn't be looking for you. But on the contrary, God is looking for you. He comes to seek and to save sinners. He comes to seek and to save you.

This connection between dirty, dark ashes and the love of God is simple. "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

God loved you and has forgiven you all the sins of your heart. The sinfulness that you know full well has been removed by Christ, your loving Savior. Jesus doesn't make you His valentine - He makes you His brother or sister, cleansed by His blood and set right by His grace.

2nd Annual Murder Mystery Dinner

Saturday, February 13th
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

RSVP by
Monday, February 8th

St. John Lutheran Church
910 S. St. Augustine Street
Pulaski, WI 54162

Tickets: \$25 each
Limit to the first 100

"Huntin' for a Murderer": A Deer Camp Murder Mystery



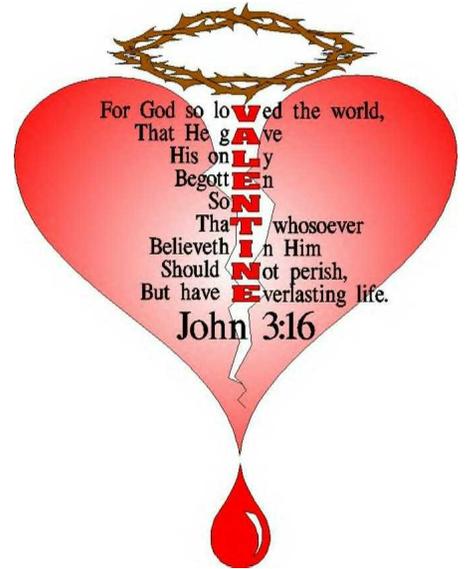
If you're looking for a fun way to spend Valentine's weekend that is sure to make you laugh and includes good food and fun, then this Murder Mystery dinner is a sure bet.

Join Sven, Ole, Iver and the rest of the deer camp gang as they try to figure out who done it. Wear your best blaze orange huntin' gear and guess the murderer to win fabulous Yooper prizes!

Menu:

Hand-made pasty with coleslaw, Yooper relish tray, and dessert with beverages

Tickets available by calling (920) 822-3511
or stop by St. John Lutheran Church office



Life is a gift from God
Psalm 127:3

A SEASON FOR EVERYTHING - A NEW SEASON FOR THE CHOIR

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh,”... (Ecclesiastes 3:1-4)

King Solomon stated, **“there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.”** Change is never easy for us either as individuals or as the body of Christ. Sometimes changes can be good, other times it can be scary or just altogether unpleasant. Change is nothing new to St. John. We have faced changes in church leadership, service times, in membership, and even in pastors. Regardless of whatever may change in the church, one thing remains the same –and that is our Lord, **“For I, the LORD, do not change”** (Malachi 3:6a).

Knowing this can and should bring us comfort even in the midst of change we might find uncomfortable or even scary. We can find comfort and peace in knowing **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever”** (Hebrews 13:8).



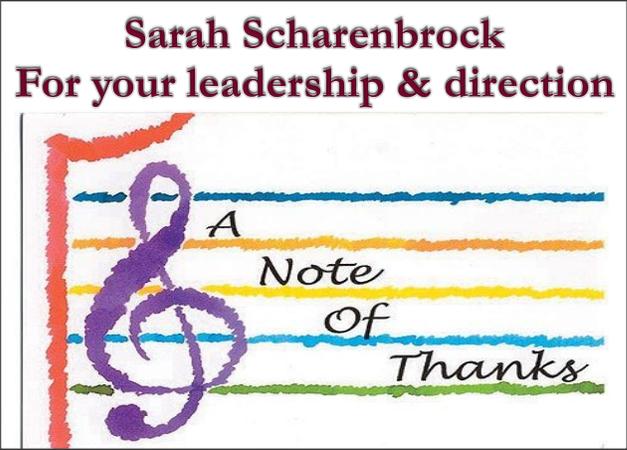
As St. Paul reminds us, **“the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”** This means that God’s gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation are not based on who is directing the music or even preaching the sermon. No, God’s gifts are based on His promises – the promises given to you when He called you through the waters of Holy Baptism, the promises you hear proclaimed

through His Holy Word, and the promises you partake of in His Son’s body and blood. These promises don’t change, even though everything around us seems to be.

Over the last couple of years our St. John choir has seen some changes. After serving for over 40 years as the choir director, Jean Batzer, stepped down in the Fall of 2012 and at that time Sarah Scharenbrock stepped in to build upon the foundation left by Jean. When Sarah stepped in, she came in full speed with a lot of excitement, talent, and wonderful ideas. Over the last 3 years the choir, under the guidance of Sarah, has put together an amazing resume of pieces and performances. In 2013, under the direction of Sarah, St. John’s choir performed a “Flash Mob” style performance at the Fox River Mall in Appleton during the Christmas season. There was also the amazing piece put together for Good Friday service of 2014 that people still talk about when Sarah brought in violinist, Audrey Nowak to accompany the choir for ‘Echoes of Golgotha.’

I cannot speak enough to how wonderful of a job Sarah has done in her time leading the choir. Her vision, leadership, and joy brought much delight to those who were in the choir, as well as those of us who had the privilege to listen from the pews at all that they did.

But now our St. John choir is entering into a ‘New Season’ a season of change. Following the Cantata, Sarah shared with the choir that after much prayer and consideration she has decided



to step down from directing the choir so she can focus more closely on her own health needs, as well as balance her time between work and family.

Speaking for myself, I cannot say enough how continually astonished I am at the gifts the Lord has blessed Sarah with and how she used them to God’s glory. It is the church’s prayer that Sarah can continue to use those gifts to bring joy to others and glory to God.

While it won’t be easy to find a replacement for Sarah, we trust the Lord of the church will continue to provide for us, as He always does, knowing that He will lead the right person to build upon that which both Jean & Sarah have set before us. For the remainder of this choir season, Dawn (May) Johnson, has come forward and offered to lead the choir through Confirmation Sunday in May. We are thankful for Dawn’s willingness to step in and fill this role for St. John in the short term.

King Solomon was right when he said, **“there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.”** So for a time we weep over the departure of Sarah, but we rejoice over the gifts she has shared with us all during her tenure. Thank You Sarah, for sharing with us at St. John your gifts and for guiding and strengthen the choir. May the Lord continue to bless you as you trust in Him to care for you and your family as we trust in the Lord to build upon the foundation that you built upon.



On behalf of the entire Jim Karl family, I would like to extend a special thank you to our church family here at St. John’s. The outpouring of support we received during my father’s short battle with pancreatic cancer was such a blessing. It was hard to be over 450 miles away from my family during this time; which meant many trips to Minnesota. I appreciate the extra assistance I received regarding my treasurer duties and apologize for my absence from the Voters’ meetings during this time. Special things are happening here at St. John Lutheran - Pulaski, and it is a direct reflection of the wonderful members of this congregation. Thank you again for all of the kind words, thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Krista Brassfield & Family

Lent



ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 10TH



FACTS ABOUT LENT

- ✠ Lent is a 40 day Christian festival beginning Ash Wednesday and concluding on Easter (*Sundays are not counted*).
- ✠ The word "Lent" comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word *lengten*, which means "springtime," named so for the time of the year in which it occurs.
- ✠ What we now call Lent was originally a period of fasting and study for catechumens who were to be baptized on the Saturday before Easter. The 40 day fast was said by Athanasius in 339 AD to be celebrated the world over. The 40 day fast of Jesus in the wilderness was responsible for the number 40 being chosen.
- ✠ The purpose of this extended fast was to practice self-denial and humility. This was to prepare oneself for receiving God's grace and forgiveness in baptism, given on Easter Saturday or Easter Sunday.
- ✠ The liturgical color for Lent is purple, the color of repentance and sorrow for sin.
- ✠ Lent prepares us for the observance of Jesus Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection for us. It is a season of repentance and sorrow for sin. Lent is a time of self-examination in light of the Ten Commandments; it is a time of giving up of sinful behavior, a time of personal housecleaning. It is a time of commitment to the new life of Christ begun in baptism. It is a time of disciplined study of Scripture and a time of growing in faith. In recent years, Lent has become a time to remember our baptisms. It is a time to reflect on the impact of baptism on our lives, and to ask ourselves how we are doing. Most of all, it is a time of renewal and new beginnings, as we through faith apply the complete forgiveness won by Christ's death to our lives. Lent heightens our awareness that we desperately need Jesus Christ.
- ✠ As someone has said: "*Lent is the Church's springtime. Out of the darkness of sin's winter emerges a people --the Church-- reborn through baptism into their Lord's death and resurrection from the grave.*" **LENT IS AN OPPORTUNITY NOT AN OBLIGATION.** It is not commanded by our Lord, nor is it even mentioned in the Bible. Those Christians who observe it do so because they find it a helpful opportunity for repentance and renewal, for the strengthening of their faith. Christians are free to observe or not observe Lent.
- ✠ What we call "*Ash Wednesday*," is difficult to date with certainty, though it probably began around 600 A.D.
- ✠ Ashes are applied to the forehead of Christians in the sign of the cross (*throughout the Middle Ages ashes were sprinkled on the head*) as a symbol of humility and repentance. The ashes are a reminder that we are "**dust and to dust you shall return**" (Genesis 3:19). Thus, they are a reminder of our mortality cursed as it is by sin. Moreover, the ashes remind us of our limits, of what we are, and how greatly we need God's mercy in Christ.

LENT MIDWEEK THEME "GOOD & PERFECT GIFTS"

This year's Lenten Round Robin Theme is drawn from Isaiah 56-66. Each sermon in this series presented by different area pastors takes up a specific gift the text, interprets it through the life and times of Isaiah, and then creatively applies it to Christians as they make their Lenten journey from the cross to the empty tomb.

- ✠ **Feb. 10 Ash Wednesday** - 'A Burden Bearer' (Yaw)
- ✠ Feb. 18 - 'Enduring Light' (Rev. Yaw)
- ✠ Feb. 25 - 'Perfect Beauty' (Rev. Schumm)
- ✠ March 3 - 'A Clean Heart' (Rev. Welter)
- ✠ March 10 - 'A City of Refuge' (Rev. DeCoste)
- ✠ March 17 - 'Unlimited Access' (Rev. Pett)



St. John's ~ Elder's Corner

ST. JOHN BOARD OF ELDERS

PLEASE FEEL FREE
TO CALL ANY ELDER:

Families by last names
& their assigned Elder

- ✠ **Aprill—Carlson**
Elder: Neal Sharkey
713-6493 Box 132
- ✠ **Christensen—Heagle**
Elder: David P. Schmidt
432-0349 Box 268
- ✠ **Heckmann—Lambert**
Elder: Jeff Stachura
639-5041 Box 253

- ✠ **Lancour—Natzke**
Elder: Larry Slaght
822-3532 Box 423
- ✠ **Nelson—Schenk**
Elder: - Vacant -
- ✠ **Schlender —Ullmer, B.**
Elder: Gene Schroeder
822-8591 Box 434
- ✠ **Ullmer, T. — Zankle**
Elder: Mike Stone
819-8845 Box 227

HEAD ELDER:
GENE SCHROEDER

ST. JOHN ELDERS — HERE TO SERVE YOU!

What is an elder & what should our congregation expect of its elders? Elders assist the pastor in matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the congregation, public worship, Christian discipline and restoration. Elders serve all members of the congregation. In order to perform such services, they concern themselves with the spiritual growth and well being of St. John's members through prayer and individual contacts.

Do you have a spiritual concern? In need of prayer or someone to listen to your concern? Contact one of the elders today! We are here to serve you; showing the love, mercy, and peace of Jesus to those in need.
(See James 5:13-16)



DOUBTS!



During a recent Wednesday morning Men's Bible Study breakfast, we discussed when John the Baptist was in prison. He began to doubt if Jesus, the Christ, the one he was preaching about was indeed the Christ, the Savior long promised in the Old Testament.

When we have doubts it is all the more important to attend weekly worship services. Even if we do not doubt we need this weekly, even daily, teaching of the Word of God and participating of the Sacraments so doubt doesn't have a chance to knock us down.

Pastor Yaw, every confirmation class, church service, Bible study, and all other studies and counseling he gives, faithfully & boldly preaches and teaches God's Word in truth and purity.

Pastor Yaw does not bend to the teachings and trends of the culture we live in. Our culture tells us *"don't offend anyone with the Word of God"*. I am very proud to know Pastor Yaw is doing what God has told him to do. We are called to *"repent, rest and rejoice in our Lord always"*.

Because of these teachings we should rejoice, be comforted and be happy, for great is our reward in heaven. We are comforted by Jesus' teachings and promises of eternal life.

God, the Author of Life, comes to earth, lays Himself down in a feeding trough. The Holy One, who knew no sin, humbled Himself unto an excruciating death, lays Himself down for three days, and resurrects Himself from the dead.

Through all this He seek the punishment we deserve. Because of all this, we can rejoice even in the midst of grief and sadness.

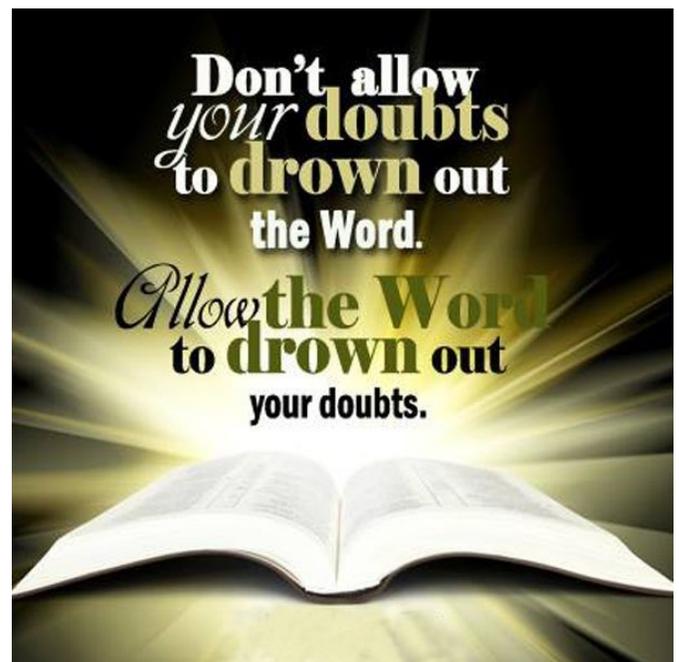
Like John the Baptist, Jesus has made available for all people a **'PEACE THAT SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING AND EXPECTATION.'**

The best part is this is a **PEACE** that cannot be earned, merited, or deserved! This **PEACE** is because of what Jesus has accomplished for us, becoming true man, suffering, dying and rising on the third day. It's a **PEACE** that assures us in difficult times that our loving God is with us *"always even to the very end of the age"*.

We elders pray that you are partaking of this **PEACE** that is offered to all people at our various church activities here at St. John, Pulaski.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, You sent forth Your Son to bear all our sins and doubts. By the power of the Holy Spirit help us to cast all our cares and anxieties on Him who did not doubt, but instead trusted in You for all things. Give us Your **PEACE** to trust in the midst of things we cannot see or understand. Amen





SUNDAY
3/6/2016 AT
3:05PM



GREEN BAY BLIZZARD FOOTBALL FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP 2016

Bring your church to enjoy a Green Bay Blizzard Football game and help make a difference \$5 of every ticket your church sells/purchases will go to:

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

With your church's help **WE can** feed over 20,000 children just by attending a great day of faith, fellowship, and football.



Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor. Proverbs

For more information on Feed my Starving Children visit:
www.fmssc.org

Church Benefits:

- ↳ Exclusive rate
- ↳ Concessions cards for your congregation available for purchase upon request
- ↳ Customized ticket ordering form making it an easy process for your church
- ↳ Group Seating with your church all in one seating section.

Tickets only \$10!!!

To reserve a ticket: Contact the church office

To participate or for more info.:
 Ryan Hopson
 (920) 499 BLIZ (2549)
Ryan@greenbayblizzard.com

THE BACK PEW - Jeff Larson



A way to a woman's heart.. FLOWERS!
 .. Psst.. real ones

<http://thebackpew.com>



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE IN NEED ESPECIALLY...

SICK, ILL, OR REQUESTED PRAYERS:

Shannon Folkman, Arlin Johnson, Zach Kolzow, Jerry Prosek, Herman Rhode, Sarah Scharenbrock, David A. & David P. Schmidt and Gene Winkler

OUR MISSIONARIES:

Pastor James May & family and the work of Lutherans in Africa.

Phil's Friends & their cancer support.

Pulaski Food Pantry and the many local families touched by their care.

THOSE MOURNING:

Krista Brassfield and family as they mourn the passing of her father, Jim Karl.

Family & friends of Janice Wendt as they mourn her passing.

Cheryl Szcepanski and family as they mourn the passing of her father, Bob Koski.

Bob Townsend and family as they mourn the passing of his brother-in-law, Gordy Schenker.

OUR SHUT-INS:

Dewey & Shirley Folkman,
 Sarah Heagle, Bob Hubbard,
 Gladys Nelson



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS



FATHER Daughter DANCE

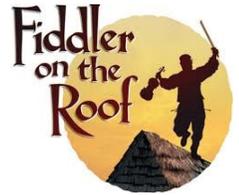
A KING AND HIS LITTLE PRINCESS

1ST ANNUAL FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE – SAT. FEB. 6TH

The Green Bay YMCA is hosting their first annual father daughter dance at the Broadview YMCA Gym, February 6th from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Cost is \$25 per child (*father or significant other is free*). Includes a light dinner and snacks, a 5X7 photo, music and lots of dancing. Craft project, make your own crown. Approx. age 4-12... some younger are signing up. Three easy ways to register: (1) In person at any Green Bay 'Y', (2) Phone 436-9595, or (3) Online: www.greenbayymca.org.

PHS PRESENTS – 'FIDDLER ON THE ROOF' - FEB. 13 & 14 AND FEB. 20 & 21

Tickets are on sale at the Pulaski High School Office or call 822-6800 for the weekend shows: Saturdays, February 13th and 20th at 7pm and Sundays, February 14th and 21st at 2pm. All seats reserved – Admission \$7.00. There will be a "Senior Citizen Only" performance on Wed., February 17th at 9:00am with no tickets needed. Please help to support our own St. John youth involved: ChaChi Wood, Micaela Hansen and Paige Bonnin. We know you ladies will be fabulous!



40 DAYS FOR LIFE

WEDNESDAYS FROM 1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM

FEBRUARY 10TH – MARCH 23RD

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion. The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign of prayer, fasting, and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God's favor, to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion. The next 40 Days for Life peaceful prayer vigil begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10th throughout the season of Lent until Wednesday, March 23rd. **Join Pastor Yaw** and other Christians **Weekly on Wednesday from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm** as we pray for an end to abortion. If you'd like to ride in with pastor to join in silent protest and prayer, call the church office. No need to make a weekly commitment joins us when you can to pray outside the Green Bay Planned Parenthood located next to Red Robin on South Oneida St. *Become a voice for the voiceless -today*

PULASKI FIRE FIGHTERS' 8TH ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH



Register your team of 5 to bowl in the 8th annual Pulaski Fire Fighters' 9-Pin tournament at the Lakeshore Lanes in Shawano on Saturday, February 20th. Teams may be mixed. There will be 50/50 raffle, along with Bucket raffles, etc. Proceeds benefit the Pulaski Tri-County Fire Fighters' Association. There are 3 bowling Shifts – 11:00am/1:30pm/4:00pm. For more info. or to register a team, call the bowling hotline at 715-526-9300.

TIM HAWKINS LIVE! - APPLETON ALLIANCE CHURCH FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

<https://timhawkins.brushfireapp.com/events/429781>



If you're looking for a good night of laughs, then look no further. Come listen to comedic genius Tim Hawkins stand-up is surgical and honed to perfection, bringing to light the brokenness of human nature while marveling in its hilarity. In his own gracious words, "If you can't laugh at yourself, laugh at other people." His musical dexterity and knack for parody stand on their own, as he deftly rattles off everything from Dylan to Aldean to brilliantly weird original songs. To get your tickets, go to the above link. \$25/\$35 in advance or \$30/\$40 at the door.

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND



The Good Samaritan Fund is what the church uses to help those who are in need both in the community and in the church. These funds help people pay for many of the needs we take for granted. This fund is unbudgeted therefore, it depends on the generosity of others to make a special offering. Please consider making a donation today. You may do so by tithing above your weekly giving & indicating on your envelope or talk with Pastor.



SIX LCEF SCHOLARSHIPS, \$1,000 EACH

Six scholarships of \$1,000 will be awarded to graduating high school seniors or current full-time post-secondary students at an accredited institution with at least one year of courses remaining.

To be eligible you must be members of a congregation belonging to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The application deadline is February 28, 2016.

TO LEARN MORE & APPLY ONLINE AT
lcefuppermidwest.org/scholarships.

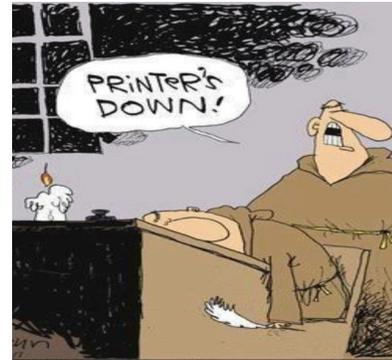
Pulaski Shell Scrip Cards BUY GAS - HELP THE YOUTH GROUP

For the month of February, Pulaski Shell Gas Station is offering to St. John Scrip cards with a **10% return**.

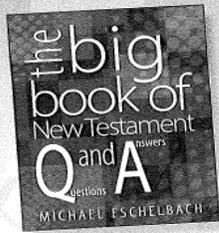
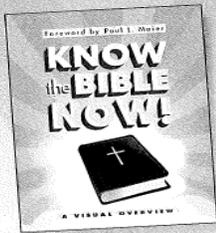


That means for every \$25 Scrip Card you buy to use at Shell, St. John Youth group will receive \$2.50 back. You still get your \$25 in gas, while the youth get credit. After the month of February, the rate will go to a 5% return for each card sold.

We use gas for our vehicles, mowers, snow blowers, etc. so why not support the Youth Group while filling up. Shell Scrip Gas Cards can be used at any Shell Station that accepts gift cards. Gift cards can be used for instore purchases in addition to gas.



NEW from Concordia Publishing House



Know the Bible Now!

Introductory Special **\$15.00**
Regularly \$19.99 Item # 012108YKN

The Big Book of New Testament Q&A

Introductory Special **\$25.00**
Regularly \$34.99 Item # 124458YKN

The Bible is both incredibly simple and wonderfully complex! Whether you grew up surrounded by the Holy Scriptures or are new to Christianity, it's normal that your days are filled with faith questions—questions that reveal a desire to dig deeper into God's Word.

Know the Bible Now! is a confidence-booster book that helps you embrace a fuller understanding of the biblical narrative. The chapters combine **120 significant Scripture passages** with easy-to-skim **infographics** that connect all of the Word to Jesus, from creation to Revelation. This unique resource strengthens your faith while quickly increasing your **Bible literacy skills**.

The Big Book of New Testament Questions and Answers dives deeper into God's grand story, uncovering 2,000+ questions you've probably heard or asked. Discover a **Q&A collection** with vast insight into the entire New Testament—the kind of exploration that sparks those "Hey, I've always wondered that!" moments.

Special pricing offer expires February 29, 2016.



cph.org/bibleintro
1 (800) 325-3040

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COMING SPRING 2016

Thanks to a generous donation, St. John has purchased and will be installing a playset sometime in March/April. This playset will be for the our parents and community families. We are truly blessed and excited at the great things taking place here at St. John. Below is a picture of the actual play set we are getting. We hope that over time we can add a few benches and ground covering to the area.





“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. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works”
(Ephesians 2:8-10)

“So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
(St. James 2:17)

We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves us is never alone. That is because faith is a living, busy, and active thing. It inhales all of God’s riches in Christ and exhales this in love and service to the neighbor.

But who is my neighbor? God in His mercy has placed us into three distinct communities: society, family, and the church. That means we have a duty to those around us in each of these communities. We pray for the people in these three communities daily. We rejoice with them in times of joy and suffer with them in times of sadness. And we give to them from the income that God provides as we are able and as they have need.

So we pay taxes to our governments so that they may do the work that is needed for our neighbors in society. We give to our families so that they have food and clothing, house and home, even educations. And we give to our church – our local congregations – so that the gospel may be preached, the sacraments administered for us and others.

The beauty of this is that God smiles upon all that giving. When you pay your taxes, God is pleased that you have served your neighbor who needs what the government provides. When you provide for your family, God is pleased. That you have helped your neighbor with the necessities of life by sharing with them what He has given to you, God is pleased. And when you give to your local congregation to support the ongoing preaching of the gospel, God is pleased. To all this giving, He says to you, **“Well done, my good and faithful servant.”**

Looking at giving in this light makes it a joy to give. The joy is multiplied. There is joy in you because you have served your neighbor in his need. There is joy in your neighbor for

God has answered their prayers through you. And God rejoices and is pleased with it all. It might just make the humdrum of grocery shopping and mortgage payments a bit more joyous. It might even make April 15 tolerable (St. Paul had to have this pep talk with the Romans, also, “This is why you pay taxes....” Rom. 13:6). And it surely will make the envelope placed into the offering plate a joyful thing.

Indeed God is pleased with you. You are saved by faith alone because of Jesus Christ. And that saving faith is never alone. It is busy and active. It serves the neighbor in society, family, and church with free and cheerful giving.

RECAP: 2015 FINANCE REPORT

The financial statements for the year ending 2015 are nearing completion, once the audit committee reviews the files.

I wanted to pass along some important numbers ahead of time though so we are all aware of the financial status of the church and so we can use this information as we move forward with some important decisions.

The total “General Fund” contributions for 2015 were \$202,404.08. The total “General Fund” expenses for 2015 were \$195,994.77. Therefore, the church ended the year having excess contributions/income of \$6,524.28 (The difference between these amounts is interest income of \$114.97).

The amounts paid out during 2015 to each of our mission initiatives are as follows:

NORTH DISTRICT <i>(Joint Seminary Fund and etc.)</i>	\$310.00
PULASKI PANTRY	\$1,688.45
PHIL’S FRIENDS	\$2,555.17
LUTHERANS IN AFRICA	\$4,518.63

The balance as of 12/31/2015 in the designated temporary fund for the remodel project is \$16,258.00.

~ Questions or concerns ~

If you have any questions regarding these amounts or any other financial concerns of the church, please feel free to contact Krista Brassfield at 328-7867 or 662-0850.

To meet our projected expenses for this year, the Voters’ Assembly passed in December the **2016 budget — \$228,975**

2015 OFFERING STATEMENTS

Your *2015 Offering Statements* for your taxes have been mailed out. If you have not received yours, please contact the church office @822-3511.

If you have any questions in regards to your statement, please let us know.





Board of Evangelism

To inspire the congregation to reach out through God's love, to serve the community, and to bring people to Christ.



NEEDED - Volunteers!

The Board of Evangelism has upcoming events in need of helpers. Many hands make light work (**and no hands sometimes means events are cancelled**).

So please see Lynn Aprill if you are willing to help out on one of these mini-committees:

Upcoming Events

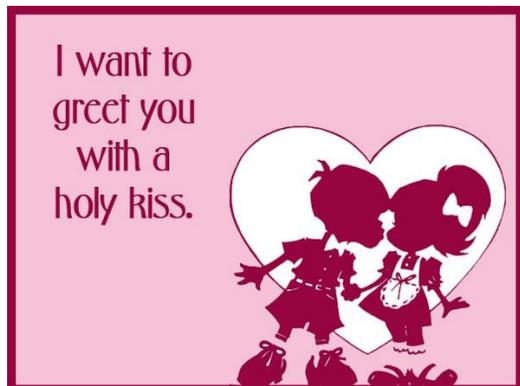
FEBRUARY 13TH— MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

Join us as St. John hosts its second annual Murder Mystery Dinner. Proceeds will go to support the church renovations. We promise you'll have fun or you can take a Yooper home with you.



MARCH 27TH - EASTER BREAKFAST - HELP NEEDED

We're looking for individuals to help with the Easter Breakfast this coming year. If you enjoy cooking, decorating, or just lending a helping hand please contact Lynn Aprill and join us as we prepare for the wonderful time of annual fellowship & celebration.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

We are excited to announce that we have a new youth leader. Amy Dyer has agreed to step into the role. I will be working closely with Amy to get the youth group up and running over the next couple of months.



We ask for your continual prayers and support as we continue to move forward. There will be a meet and greet with Amy for parents and youth in the coming weeks to discuss ideas and schedule. Watch for a flyer to be mailed home soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2nd – Wednesday 5:45 to 8:30pm

Bowling at the Gutter in Howard

Cost: \$5; plus cash for food.

Prize will be given out for different things. Invite a friend to come along.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



The annual Children's Christmas Nativity was a success once again this year. Thank you to all those who help make it successful.

Thank to Ryan Winn for writing the script, to David & Cheryl Schmidt for the music, to Kourtney Klipstine

for tooting her own trumpet, to Pastor for the message, to all our teachers and helpers, and to all the kids. You did a great job as usual.

Please note: the Sunday School children will be singing in Church on Sunday, Feb. 21st.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT Bible for Lutherans in Africa

This year's mission is to use our Sunday School offerings to purchase Bibles for Lutherans in Africa. This is an exciting opportunity to teach our children how important it is to share God's message on both a local and global basis, and also for them to see the direct impact their fundraising will have. Through our Sunday School Offerings we have raised over \$1450 for the purchase of Bibles. We will continue to raise funds for this project until the end of July.



Don't forget about "Squeaky" the shopping cart during the children's service (the third Sunday of every month). We are still collecting nonperishable food items that go to the local food pantry



Corner

NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

Please come join us for a bible study at our Feb. meeting.

“WANTED: WORKERS IN GOD’S HARVEST FIELD”

This is the theme of the LWML Prayer Service written for this year but think it applies to all of us. God is waiting for us to step up and work in His field. There are tasks of all sizes and none too great or small. Sometimes we just don't even see what needs to be done or perhaps you are waiting to receive a call to help? We don't know who you are so if you think you'd like to help in some way, feel free to talk to myself or any of our guild members. This is a new year and maybe it's time for you to join us ...even if you can't come to all the meetings, we are glad to have you.

**LENT SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPER
(THURSDAY EVENING)**

We are dwindling in numbers and so this year we will be doing something different. The Ladies Guild will host the Ash Wednesday meal before church which will include soup, sandwiches and dessert. So if you are short on time and need to eat before church, we will start serving at 5:45 p.m. so come right to church and join us.



The following weeks will be served by other volunteers or groups. There may be some open spots so please check the sign up sheet in the social hall.

I'd like to leave you with the following poem which was written by William Arthur Ward helps illustrate Christian character entitled: **I WILL DO MORE**

I will do more than belong, I will participate.
 I will do more than care, I will help.
 I will do more than believe, I will practice.
 I will do more than forgive, I will forget.
 I will do more than teach, I will inspire.
 I will do more than dream, I will work.
 I will do more than give, I will serve.
 I will do more than earn, I will enrich.
 I will do more than live, I will grow.
 I will do more than be fair, I will be kind.
 I will do more than be a citizen, I will be a patriot.
 I will do more than be friendly, I will be a friend.



Ways to Support St. John while you shop!

Did you know that there are many ways to help our church and youth program financially—just by doing what you are doing anyway?

One example is SCRIP. By using the gift cards purchased here for your regular shopping for groceries, home goods, clothing, or eating out, our church automatically receives anywhere from 1 to 10 percent of your purchase (*depending on the retailer*) goes toward our youth program. Order forms are available by the coat room.

A program you may not be aware of is “Amazon Smile.” Amazon will give back 0.5% of your amazon.com purchase, if you go through Amazon Smile, at no extra cost to you. Go to smile.amazon.com and log in to your regular account. From there, you can choose a charity to support. Our church is part of this program.

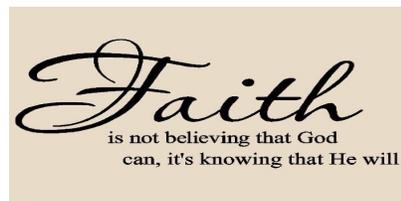
On your first visit to smile.amazon.com type in the pick your own charitable organization box to search for “Saint John Pulaski”. Select the church to receive donations from your eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

Amazon will remember your selection, then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation to the church.

If you are an Amazon Prime member, this will still work. So do Amazon gift cards (*which you can purchase in SCRIP*). If you shop at Amazon, please check this out. It is a very easy way to help. 0.5% does not sound like much, but if enough of us do it, it will add up pretty quickly. Every little bit helps!



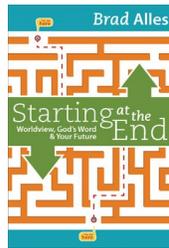
Online Readers: to shop using AmazonSmile selecting St. John click on the Picture above now



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

STARTING AT THE END
Tuesday 8:30 am – 9:30 am
Mt. Bay Coffee

Join us Tuesday mornings
for coffee and God's Word.



“People have great interest in defending their faith as well as knowing what the future holds, and for good reason. Is there any more intriguing topic than the future? Will humankind exterminate itself, come together in a peaceful existence, or be ushered into eternal states of heaven or hell after the Judgment Day of God? People want to know. Understanding the Bible as well as other worldviews will aid Christians in grasping events happening in the world around us today.”

In order to figure out the times in which we live, we need to start at the end, so please join us as we study the book ‘**Starting at the End, Worldview, God's Word, and Your Future**’ by Brad Alles. Several copies of the book are available for use and/or purchase (\$10) through the church office.



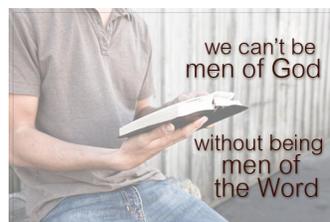
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY BREAKFAST **Wednesday 8:00 am at Pulaski Station***

*Formerly known as Neighborhood Kitchen

Men of all ages are invited to join us for breakfast as we enjoy fellowship and studying of the Word of God. We look at the coming Sunday readings, discussing them while we wait for our food to arrive. If you can't make it weekly, that's alright. Join us when you can.

MEN'S SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY **Saturday, February 20th – 7:30 am**

We are challenging all men to take up their Bible this Lent and join us for Bible Study one Saturday a month. Learn what it means to be a man of God, and lead your household. Join us as we dig into God's Word over coffee and breakfast at the church. Come be encouraged by other men, prayed for, and strengthened by the Word. We meet at 7:30 am for an hour.



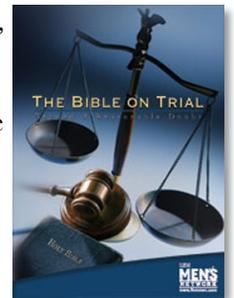
SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Come for the coffee, stay for the study.

BIBLE ON TRIAL

Biblical criticism, ancient historical voices, the illumination of archaeology, the testimony of first-century followers of Jesus Christ—all these come to bear on the examination of the reliability of the Scriptures in **The Bible On Trial: Beyond A Reasonable Doubt**.

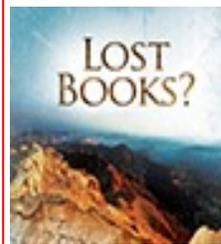
In this series, the case is made that the Scriptures are authentic, dependable, God-inspired and worthy – not only of our full attention but of our complete faith. In this Bible study, attorney Craig Parton leads the viewer through relevant points that comprise this important discussion. He asks, "Is this book, the Bible, and its contents reliable?"



January 31st—**Archaeology's Contribution**

February 7th—**Eyewitness Testimony**

LOST BOOKS? - FEB. 14



Ever wondered if some texts were intentionally excluded from the Bible and why? In ‘**Lost Books?**’ we'll look at why some ancient writings failed to make the cut for inclusion, why other texts most definitely met the standard, & why others, including those "gospels" found in the last century, came up short.

Join us as Rev. Gregory Seltz, speaker of The Lutheran Hour, host this DVD based study and asks, "**Were books intentionally excluded from the Bible? What if more information about Christ's life was buried for centuries? Are there books that should be in the Bible, but aren't?**"

With worldwide hits like *The Da Vinci Code* and cable networks cranking out programs on cracking cryptic codes and unburying ancient secrets, the interest in knowing what the past has to say is running high.

Too often these types of questions are directed to believers, putting them at a loss to answer those who wonder why the Bible should be believed over other ancient writings. In fact, many Christians have the same questions themselves. Join us Sunday mornings, starting Feb. 14th as we tackle these queries & several other issues together with Biblical experts.

We will also consider topics like biblical inerrancy, Gnosticism, alternative gospels, divine inspiration, the supposedly lesser-known sayings of Jesus, text selection, and more. Learn why the 66 books of the Bible are considered the inerrant Word of God—a trustworthy cover-to-cover revelation from God to man.

Heavenly Humor!

Is your name Grace?
Beacuse you are
AMAZING!



ADAM STRAYS

When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. "You're running around with other women," she told her mate.

"Eve, honey, you're being unreasonable," Adam replied. "You know you're the only woman on earth."

The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by a strange pain in the chest. It was Eve poking him rather vigorously about the torso.

"What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded.

"Counting your ribs," said Eve.

BLACK & WHITE WEDDING

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

A DARKENED THEATRE

A strained voice called out through the darkened theater, "Please, is there a doctor in the house?!"

Several men stood up as the lights came on.

An older lady pulled her daughter to stand next to her, "Good, are any of you doctors single, and interested in a date with a nice, Lutheran girl?"

Laughter!

DRESS TEMPTATION

Struggling to make ends meet on a first-call salary, the pastor was livid when he confronted his wife with the receipt for a \$250 dress she had bought. "How could you do this?!"

"I was outside the store looking at the dress in the window, and then I found myself trying it on," she explained. "It was like Satan was whispering in my ear, 'You look fabulous in that dress. Buy it!'"

"Well," the pastor replied, "You know how I deal with that kind of temptation. I say, 'Get behind me, Satan!'"

"I did," replied his wife, "but then he said, 'It looks fabulous from back here, too!'"

FISH & CHIPS

It was the third Friday of Lent, when a faithful parishioner stumbles through pouring rain past hamburger stands and steak houses into the monastery at Mount Angel and requests shelter. He's just in time for dinner and was treated to the best fish and chips he's ever had.

After dinner, he goes into the kitchen to thank the chefs. He's met by two brothers, "Hello, I'm Brother Michael, and this is Brother Francis."

"I'm very pleased to meet you. I just wanted to thank you for a wonderful dinner. The fish and chips were the best I've ever tasted. Out of curiosity, who cooked what?"

Brother Michael replies, "Well, I'm the fish friar."

The man turns to the other brother and says, "Then you must be . . ."

"Yes, I'm afraid I'm the chip monk."



NEW COMMUNION SET



CHALICE

St. John was blessed to receive an anonymous donation for the purchase of new communion ware (pictured). The communion ware includes a new chalice and paten (not pictured), as well as a Open & Closed Ciboria, and a flagon (not pictured). These items were dedicated to the glory and use of God on Sunday, January 17th.

The new communion ware is made of noble metals of silver and is gold lined — which should eliminate any hygiene concerns one would have about receiving from the common cup. For the combinations of the noble metal of the chalice and the alcohol content of the wine makes the possibility for germs to be transmitted almost nonexistent. A thorough study on the use of the common cup was done by professors Burroughs and Hemmers in 1965 and was reported in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*. Their conclusion was:

Experiments on the transmission of organisms from one person to another by common use of the chalice showed that 0.001% of the organisms transferred even under the most favorable conditions and when conditions approximated those of actual use, no transmission could be detected. It is through hands that most disease is transmitted, and how many hands touch the ‘little glasses?’ The alternative is to reject the command of Christ and refrain from Communion altogether.

Lutherans should remember that Martin Luther restored the cup when Roman Catholics had all but eliminated it from the peoples’ Communion. He did it because his loyalty was to the command of Christ in the Bible. The use of the common cup was normative until the late nineteenth century and was eliminated in those churches in which Communion was not understood as being the Body and Blood of Christ. Some Lutherans allow other methods of distribution, believing that the method of distribution does not matter.

However, the use of the common chalice retains that which Our Lord indicated was His desire. And its effect, when used, is to transmit not only salvation but also the oneness that comes from sharing the Blood of Christ from the Chalice in common with one’s sisters and brothers. All the faithful respond to Christ’s words: **“Then He took a cup, and when He had returned thanks, He gave it to them, ‘Drink all of you from this,’ He said.”** (St. Matthew 26:27) It is also good to note that what our Lord intends only for our good in the cup of His Blood— forgiveness, life, and strengthened faith — will not cause harm unless one is taking it in an unworthy manner that goes against what the Lord has commanded.

BEAUTY IN THE DETAILS

When one looks at the new communion ware, around the chalice and Ciboria’s is a detailed design of the Lord’s Supper which serves as a teaching aid and as well as reminder of our Lord’s last supper with His disciples and how we are to partake of that same meal today. On the base of the new communion ware are 4-symbols which represent the 4-Evangelist.

ST. MATTHEW: The man or winged man
ST. LUKE: The ox

ST. MARK: The lion
ST. JOHN: The eagle

The cup is also decorated with ‘Celtic filigree’ which is a Celtic knot—often times used to represent the Trinity. Additional information on the Evangelist symbols will follow in preceding newsletters. We give thanks to God for this donation. The beauty and teaching aid these pieces add to our service will benefit both young and old alike for generations to come.

The next time you partake of the Lord’s Body & Blood — may the beauty of these pieces remind you of the beauty of Christ’s sacrifice for your sins and His promises given therein for you.



CLOSED CIBORIA
OPEN CIBORIA





Camp Luther is located in beautiful Three Lakes, this year-round mission of the North Wisconsin District is focused on "Building up the Body of Christ for service to the church and witness to the World."

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✘ Camp Luther is only 2 hours Northwest of Pulaski; that's 126 miles. Located outside of Three Lakes, WI.
- ✘ Camp Luther is a Lutheran Camp that is Christ-centered that teaches about Jesus and it's FUN!
- ✘ Camp Luther offers retreats for kids from ages 4 through High School.
- ✘ Camp Luther also offers retreats for College Students, Adults & Families.
- ✘ St. John has been sending kids and adults to Camp Luther for over 30 years.
- ✘ Camp Luther offers Financial Aid through "Camperships" which generally cover 50% of your registration fee; however, the amount can vary from year to year based upon the funds available. Forms available on the bulletin board in the church narthex.
- ✘ Camp Luther teaches about Jesus!
- ✘ St. John offers scholarships to attend camp, in addition to Camp Luther's "Campership."
- ✘ St. John selects dates of the various camps to encourage youth from the congregation to attend together.
- ✘ Camp for the younger kids is only 2 nights/3 Days while for the older crowd it's up to a week long.
- ✘ Camp is a great way to make friends, learn responsibility, and grow in one's faith.
- ✘ Camp Luther has 5 different fun themed villages for the kids in 3rd –9th grade.
Villages include: Fort Village, Treehouse Village, Tower Village, Pioneer Village, & Noah's Ark Village.
- ✘ Camp Luther offers canoeing, archery, kayaking, swimming, crafts, bible study, and so much more...
- ✘ Camp Luther has a Zip Line.
- ✘ Did we mention... Camp Luther teaches about Jesus!

NEVER BEEN TO CAMP—GO FOR **FREE!**

- ✘ **"Every Kid to Camp"** is a ministry that sends kids to a week of summer camp at Camp at no expense to their parents. **Kids in grades 3-8**, who have never attended a summer camp at Camp Luther, qualify to attend.
- ✘ If you have a child who would like to attend Camp Luther and never has gone before —see Pastor Yaw about sending your child for free.
- ✘ **MORE FREE CAMP— St. John Camp Luther Fund** is available to help send as many kids from our congregation as possible to Camp. The following is being offered this year to help send kids to camp.
 - ✘ **First Time to Camp Luther:** St. John will give up to \$150 per kid
 - ✘ **Second Time to Camp Luther:** St. John will give up to \$100 per kid
 - ✘ **Third Time to Camp Luther:** St. John will give up to \$50 per kid
- ✘ **Additional Financial Assistance is Available** — please see Pastor Yaw or email pastor.yaw@netnet.net



St. John's Camp Luther Fund Form is located on the Sunday School Bulletin Board!

SIGN-UP AT WWW.CAMPLUTHER.COM OR PICK UP A BROCHURE IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX.

Go To Camp!

CAMP OPPORTUNITIES:

Dates that are **BOLD & UNDERLINED**

are the dates we're encouraging St. John members to attend.

**All grade levels are based on current grade levels at the time of registration.
For the well being of the program, campers, and staff, we do not make exceptions.*



KinderCamp — 4 - 5 years old

KinderCamp is a great way to experience Camp Luther with your 4k/5k aged child. Our trained staff will lead activities designed for the adult and child to enjoy together. Shared housing is in the Retreat Center in which each room has two single beds and a bunk bed. Roommate requests may be made on registration form. KinderCamp is open to 4 and 5 year-olds and those who have completed kindergarten. Designed for a child with one adult - however one adult may bring up to 2 children.

<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Child Cost:</u>	<u>Guardian Cost:</u>	<u>Price Includes a Shirt</u>
June 17-19	\$185 – Before April 1st	\$35	
July 15-17 or <u>JULY 29-31</u>	\$195 – After March 31st		\$75 deposit is due at the time of your registration.
Aug. 12-14			

Explorer Camp — 1st - 3rd Grade

Explorer Camp is a fun-filled weekend, packed full of adventure, activities, and relationship building. Swimming, parachute games, arts & crafts, and campfire singing will make this one of their favorite weekends of the year! Explorer Camp is a wonderful opportunity for children to grow through a safe, welcoming, Christian experience away from home! They won't want to miss out!

<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Child Cost:</u>	<u>Price Includes a Shirt</u>	<u>\$75 deposit with Registration</u>
June 10-12 or June 24-26	\$185 – Before April 1st		
<u>JULY 22-24</u>	\$195 – After March 31st		
August 7-9			

Discovery Camp — 3rd - 5th Grade

An excellent introductory camp for your 3rd-5th grader. Excited to come to camp, but not ready for an entire week? Discovery Camp is perfect fit! For four days campers will experience fun, fellowship, and spiritual growth. They will cook over the fire, do activities like canoeing, archery, and swimming, and have devotions under the stars! Each night they will gather around a campfire before falling asleep at either Pioneer or Tower Village! Campers will be housed in villages. *Discovery Campers do not use the Zip Line during their stay.*

<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Child Cost:</u>	<u>Price Includes a Shirt</u>	<u>\$75 deposit with Registration</u>
June 12-15 or <u>JUNE 19-22</u>	\$240 – Before April 1st	\$250 – After March 31st	

Pathfinder Camp — 3rd - 6th Grade

Can you imagine falling asleep under the stars with your best friends? How about having late night conversations around the campfire? Or maybe playing games all day long with no homework? For five-nights you can spend the best week of your summer at Camp Luther. Throughout the week you will bond with fellow campers, cook over a fire, take part in fun-filled activities, all while being led by Christ centered college aged counselors! Campers can choose to stay in one of five outpost villages or in the dormitory-style Retreat Center. Campers in villages prepare and eat many of their meals over a fire. Campers often take short canoe or bike trips off-site.

<u>Dates:</u>	<u>\$75 deposit with Registration</u>	<u>Child Cost:</u>	<u>Price Includes a Shirt</u>
June 12-17	Grades 3-5 *Discounted Week*	\$400 – Before April 1st	*Discounted Week: \$390.00*
<u>JUNE 19-24</u>	Grades 4-6	\$410– After March 31st	*Discounted Week: \$400.00*
July 10-15	Grades 4-6		
July 24-29	Grades 3-5		
July 31- Aug.5	Grades 4-6		
August 7-12	Grades 3-5		

Trailblazer Camp — 5th - 8th Grade

Designed for this age group to have the most fun as possible, while being invited to challenge themselves physically and spiritually. Intentional activities within camper groups provide opportunities for friendships and faith to grow. Campers can choose to stay in an outpost villages or in the dormitory-style Retreat Center. You won't want to miss out on this life changing week!

<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Child Cost:</u>	<u>Price Includes a Shirt</u>	<u>\$75 deposit with Registration</u>
June 26 - July 1	Grades 5-7	\$400 – Before April 1st	
July 3-8	Grades 6-8 *Discounted Week*	\$410– After March 31st	
<u>JULY 17-22</u>	Grades 6-8		
July 31-Aug. 5	Grades 6-8		
August 7-12	Grades 5-7		

~ JOIN ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH AT CAMP LUTHER SUMMER 2016 ~

How You Can Help!!

**Purchase your gift cards through St. John to support our Youth Group.
It's so easy, even a Pastor can do it!! Here is what you need to do:**

- ↳ Fill out an order form (located next to the coat room). Orders are placed every other week.
- ↳ Pay via cash or check made payable to *St. John Lutheran Church*.
- ↳ Drop order form with payment into the black box by the coat room.
- ↳ Gift cards will be available for pick-up the following Sunday after the service.
- ↳ Any questions, please contact Jean Kohlmeyer or the church office.

**There is something for everyone. Here are just a few of the
Gift Cards available. See the complete list next to the coat room.**

Clothing & Accessories

Aeropostale
Children's Place
Claire's
Crazy 8
Dressbarn
Express
Foot Locker
Gap
Gymboree
LL Bean
Old Navy
Payless Shoes
TJ Maxx

Department Stores

JC Penney
Kohl's
Macy's
Sears
Younkers

Dining-Casual

Applebee's
Buffalo Wild Wings
Chili's
Chuck E. Cheese
Old Chicago
Old Country Buffet
Olive Garden
Pizza Ranch
Red Robin
Texas Roadhouse

Dining- On the Go

Chipotle
Cousins Subs
Dairy Queen
Fazoli's
Papa Murphy's
Pizza Hut
Starbucks
Subway
Taco Bell
Wendy's

Discount Store

Burlington Coat
Sam's Club
Shopko
Target
Walmart

Electronics & Office

Best Buy
GameStop
Office Depot/Max

Gas & Auto

Advance Auto Parts
AutoZone
BP Gas
Exxon/Mobil
Kwik Trip
Shell

Entertainment

Barnes & Noble
Family Video
Funset Boulevard
Marcus Theatres

Grocery

Copps
Pick 'n Save
Piggly Wiggly
Roundys

Home Décor

Bed Bath & Beyond
Pier 1 Imports
Pottery Barn

Home Improvement

Ace Hardware
Fleet Farm
Lowe's
Menards
Home Depot

Online & Catalog

Amazon.com
Groupon.com
iTunes
Overstock.com
Shutterfly

Service

Master Cuts
Regis Salons

Specialty Retailer

American Girl
Bath & Body Works
Build-A-Bear
CVS Pharmacy
GNC
Hallmark
JoAnn Fabric
Michaels
Pet Smart
Toys 'R' Us
Walgreens

Sporting Goods

Cabela's
Dick's Sporting
Dunham's
Gander Mountain

Travel

Avis Car Rental
Best Western
Budget Car Rental
Carnival Cruises
Choice Hotels
Comfort Suites
Disney
Sleep Inn

And Many,

Many More!!

IT'S FREE MONEY!! What are you waiting for? Support St. John while shopping. It's that easy!

SCRIP! How it works...



What is Scrip?

Scrip is Fundraising While You Shop. This amazingly successful fundraising program has worked for thousands of churches and other non-profit organizations! Scrip turns everyday shopping into cash for our church when families use retail gift cards to pay for everyday purchases (like gas & groceries) instead of the usual credit/debit card or other money. Great Lakes Scrip Center has helped thousands of organizations earn more than 500 million dollars over the last 20 years.

How It Works

Good news: It's really simple!

The Basics of a Scrip Program

- ✦ Our church members buy retail gift cards through our scrip program at face value.
You pay \$50 – you receive \$50 in gift cards.
- ✦ You can choose from nearly 400 national retail stores where you already shop.
You may obtain the complete list of what is offered through church by the coat room.
- ✦ Our church buys the gift cards at 1-16% less than face value (varies by retailer).
- ✦ The difference between face value and what our church pays = our earnings.
- ✦ Our fundraising has begun! It's that easy!

Here's an Example

Pastor Yaw needs some gardening supplies, so he buys a \$100 Home Depot gift card for \$100 through the church's scrip fundraiser. Cha-ching! He just earned \$4 for the church because Home Depot gift cards are available from Great Lakes Scrip Center at 4% less than face value. When Pastor Yaw checks out at Home Depot, he pays with his gift card instead of using a credit or debit card! He will do the same thing when he needs office supplies at Office Max, and earn \$5 for the church just by using a \$100 Office Max gift card to pay for his purchases.

Why Scrip is Better?

Most fundraising programs sell "stuff." Supporters buy the "stuff" to "help you out." (i.e. "How little can I spend?"). With scrip, there's no need to sell "stuff."

TOP SCRIP PROGRAM BENEFITS

- 1) No selling random, unwanted, overpriced "stuff" to family and friends.
- 2) Earnings add up fast! It's easy for a single family to generate over \$500 per year.
- 3) Everyday family purchases become every day earnings for our church.
- 4) You can plan ahead to buy groceries, gas, and other household expenses with gift cards.
- 5) Use gift cards to pay at checkout, just like you would use a credit/debit card, but without the fraud risk.
- 6) No unnecessary spending!
Families spend their planned household budget at stores they already frequent.