

ST. MATTHEW'S NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DEBRA

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. Matthew 19:14-15

Every year May comes around and we reach the end of the school year – and along with this ending come the annual ends of various programs at church, especially those involving the children. We had the last day of Sunday School and the last day of Confirmation classes in May. But we also look forward to Vacation Bible School at this time. If you children really want a lot of VBS this year, then they can go in Winthrop from June 14-18, and in Fernando from June 20-24.

Children haven't learned to take God for granted. They still get excited when they hear the wondrous miracle stories or the brave hero stories. They still are amazed to hear about Jesus ascending into heaven, or Peter walking on water. That's one of the great joys that comes with teaching Sunday School or VBS – being excited with the children as they hear for the first or second time the stories that we know so well.

At baptism parents and sponsors and congregations make promises. The parents, along with their chosen sponsors promise before the Lord to raise their child in the Christian faith; to teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments; to place Holy Scripture in their hands. And the congregation pledges to assist.

Somehow, over the years, congregations have ended up with the bigger role in trying to bring the children up in the faith. Parents have turned the responsibility of teaching to the church. Unfortunately, whether the church or the family does the teaching, the only way a child is going to recognize that faith is important, is if that importance is seen in the

lives of their parents and grandparents.

Where prayer and Bible reading and church attendance are part of the parents' lives, then they are much more likely to become part of the child's life as he or she grows. This is one of the reasons I place readings for children in the newsletter each month.

(Continued on page 2)



"Let the little children come to me"

MATTHEW 19:14



Cleaning Responsibilities

REMEMBER: Call the next person on the list and pass on the key!

19-Apr -	3-May -	Randy & Jacqueline Diepold
26-Apr -	10-May -	Brian & Debbie Draeger
3-May -	17-May -	Kathy Ewert
10-May -	24-May -	Quint & Dody Fransen
17-May -	31-May -	Steffie Gronlund
24-May -	7-Jun -	Joel & Mary Hansch



Altar Flowers

Flowers

Roxanne Hamm
and
Mary Hansch



Gloria Banks
HQ ISAF
US NSE/JIOC-A
APO, AE 09356

Dustin Blum
1349 Forrestwood Circle
Leesville, LA 71446

Ben Rettmann
5063 Ulm Avenue
Stewart, MN 55385

Office Hours

Do you need an appointment with Pastor Debra? She is always willing to meet with you. Simply call her to set up an appointment. Check the schedule in the calendar for her office hours, but remember, *it is always best to call first* since she does get called away sometimes.



Five Churches

Women please note – because of the date change to September 15th, we will not be participating in the 5 Churches event this year. Small serving group 5 will be rescheduled to the next event.



- June**
- 2-Layne Herrmann
 - 4- Steffie Gronlund
 - 18- Naomi Rettig
 - 19- Kayla Kramer
 - 19- Vern Brugman
 - 21- Debbie Draeger
 - 21- Phylis Brede
 - 21- Ryan Brugman

Coffee and Conversation

Coffee and Conversation on the last Sunday of the month is an opportunity to spend some relaxing time with your friends in the congregation. Velda would welcome the assistance of others in making coffee and bringing treats. Let Velda know if you'd like to help some month. This month our gathering is May 30th following worship.

Pastor's Message cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

And this is also one of the reasons I place daily readings there as well.

I've been wondering: What are your favorite Bible stories? I'm not asking about Bible verses – but about the stories. I love the Genesis 1 creation account. And I feel especially blessed when I read a little three verse story in Luke (5:12-14) when Jesus chooses to touch a leper to heal him. Just think about the relationship that our Savior has with us that he reaches out and touches our ailments. How much that is like his coming to die for our sake.

Share some of your favorite Bible stories with the children in your life. You'll be glad that you did, and so will they. Jesus invites them to come, and not be turned away.

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? Romans 10:14

In Christ's love,

Pastor Debra



Reading the Bible to Children

Read the Bible with the children in your life. Help them to develop a life-long desire to open God's Word, God's Holy Book, on a daily basis. This month I suggest some of the stories about the disciples after Jesus ascended into heaven. Encourage them to Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.



- Acts 10:1-48 Food declared clean/Peter and Cornelius
- Acts 12:6-17 Peter delivered from prison
- Acts 16:16-39 Paul and Silas in prison

Book of Faith

Book of Faith readings this month are from more of the letters (Epistles) in the New Testament. Do you wonder about the questions that are included for each day? The intent is to get you to think about the reading, or to think about it in relation to your life. Read the scripture passage, and then spend a few minutes thinking about the question. *Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.*



Book of Faith

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is coming! Beginning on Father's Day (June 20) and continuing through Thursday, June 24th we will again be hosting VBS at Fernando. It is fun for just about all ages, with activities for the children and opportunities to help for everyone else. The program will be Thursday.

Breakfast with the Pastor

Breakfast with the Pastor will be on Thursday, June 17th at 8:00. We will continue our viewing of Max McLean's presentation of the book of Genesis. Come and enjoy a great breakfast, wonderful conversation, and an enjoyable program.



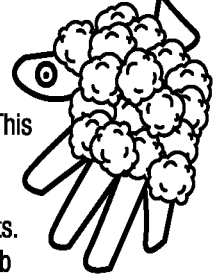
Breakfast With the Pastor

Green Lake Quilt Auction

Green Lake Bible Camp's 26th Annual Quilt Auction will be on Saturday, July 24, 2010. The Hog Roast will be from 10:45 – 1:00, and the auction begins at 11:30. The Quilt Review will be Friday from 5:30-8:30 and Saturday from 8:30-10:30.

Lamb Mission Bank

God can do great things with our gifts. This craft reminds us that every little coin counts. When your lamb is full, empty out the coins and give them to a charity or church mission program.



What you need:

- Knit glove (black or white)
- 1-foot-long piece of thin ribbon, any color
- Stapler
- Craft glue or hot glue gun
- Fiberfill or cotton balls
- 2 googly eyes

What you do:

1. Staple one end of the ribbon to the inside of each side of the glove's opening to make a hanger.
2. For the lamb's body, cover the palm and half of the thumb with glue. Stick the fiberfill or cotton balls onto the glue.
3. Glue a googly eye to each side of the mitten's thumb. (The other fingers will be the legs.)
4. Hang the lamb where you'll see it often. Whenever you have extra change, drop it into your lamb bag.



Give to those in need

John the Baptist spoke to a crowd, telling them they should be fruitful. When the crowd asked how they could be fruitful, John the Baptist responded with some specific ideas.

Unscramble John the Baptist's reply from Luke 3:11 (NIV), and write the words in the blanks below.

★ **WORD BANK** ★

with food him who should with man share do the should two tunics has the who none and one the same has

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Answer: "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." (Luke 3:11, NIV)

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