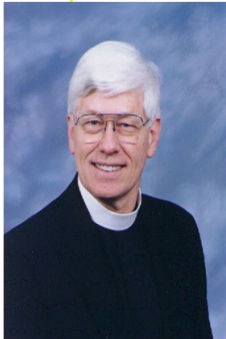


St. John Messenger

February 2011



VOLUME 100, ISSUE 2

Special points of interest:

- > Keep the Unity of the Spirit
- > More Time for Listening
- > Applying Bible Principles
- > Stewardship Newsletter

From The Transition Pastor *Keep the Unity of The Spirit*

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” – Ephesians 4:1-8 NKJV

The Holy Spirit gives unity – not disunity. The Holy Spirit brings peace – not dissention. The Holy Spirit brings patience, love, joy – not hate, sadness, pain. The Holy Spirit is always at work building the faith of Christ stronger in our hearts and in the life of a church like St. John.

Knowing that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to all of us we need to hear the Apostle Paul plead with us in the above passage and respond in faith To “*walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one*

another in love.” It takes real effort and determination for both pastor and people in a church to live in this manner. The enemy, Satan, is always trying to pit brother against brother, sister against sister, or sister against brother in the family of Jesus.

Often Christian congregations are disrupted by people and events which are NOT motivated by the fruits of the Spirit which are “*patience, love, joy and peace.*” (Gal. 5:22) Think how often you or I or someone else has let our pride, prejudice, personality get in the way of the Holy Spirit’s positive direction. It takes patience to let God do His ministry in His time and not impose our human will on the congregation. Disharmony in a church family can happen so fast when we are not together in the “*mind of Christ.*”

The *Building One Another Up* emphasis in the life of St. John is no exception to this. The Devil delights in using things to hurt this positive, Christ pleasing effort. It may only be a

small hurt feeling, a negative comment, or a full blown attack and the enemy has his fun causing disruption. Each one of us needs to examine our walk with Christ and respond in the most positive manner possible. Keep the Lord Jesus the center of our church family.

The election of new officers, at the Voters meeting, on Sunday, January 16th places people in critical posts for the church to chart a future. I lift my voice in praise to God for each and every person who is willing to serve. We need to stand along side these fine men and women with our prayers and encouragement. My task, as your transition pastor, is to be to each of them an aide, helper, and cheerleader.

We will have our next Voters meeting on Sunday, February 27th at 11:30 am and your leaders will be bringing to you things that need our action. In the meantime hold them in your daily prayers and I will also daily pray for them.

God bless you my friend as we walk together in the light of Ephesians 4 (printed above).

In Christ’s love,
Theodore “Ted” C. Mueller,
Transition Pastor

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MORE TIME FOR LISTENING by Pastor Herman W. Gockel

A busy preacher was telling a Quaker all the things he had to do during the coming week.

There were three sermons to deliver, two weddings to perform, two special addresses to be made, and nearly two dozen sick calls!

Raising his hand, the Quaker interrupted quietly and remarked dryly: "If thou doest so much talking, when hath the Lord a chance to talk to thee?"

A good question - not only for preachers and teachers but also for all who call

themselves followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Of Jesus we are told that He frequently withdrew from the busy rounds of life to lonely mountain spots for quiet conversations with His Father. Even He needed the refreshment and encouragement which comes from quiet communion with heaven.

We read in Matthew: "And when He had sent the multitude away, He went up into a mountain apart to pray." In Luke we read: "He went out into a mountain to pray and

continued all night in prayer to God." In John we are told that after the feeding of the five thousand "He departed again into a mountain Himself alone."

And who will ever forget the scene in Gethsemane when, alone, He communed with His Father as the climax hour approached? We may be sure that not only did He *speaking* during these sad and solitary moments, but He also *listened* for He went forth to carry out His Father's will.



**"In
quietness . . .
shall be your
strength,**

MORE TIME FOR LISTENING

How important that we follow His example! In our loud, confused, and topsy-turvy world, in which each of us is on the go from morning to night, hurrying and scurrying from one appointment to another - how important that we STOP at appointed intervals and cultivate the habit of quiet listening!

Before rising in the morning, at breakfast, on the

way to work, at lunch, at dinner, upon retiring - there are countless opportunities throughout the day for closing the door against the noises of the world and for speaking and *listening* to our heavenly Father.

"In quietness . . . shall be your strength," the Lord told His people through the prophet Isaiah. If only each of us could cultivate

more consistent habits of quietness - moments when our hearts and minds are attuned to our Lord and Savior.

Surely many of us deserve the gentle rebuke of the Quaker: "If thou doest so much talking, when hath the Lord a chance to talk to thee?"

ONLY JESUS

"*Only Jesus*" is the theme for our 2011 Lenten season. Ash Wednesday, March 9th begins the church's 40-day journey of repentance and renewal in preparation for Easter. In our Wednesday services we will focus on what "*ONLY JESUS*" could do and did for our salvation. Pastor Ted C. Mueller will be preaching at the 7:00 pm services which will be held in the church. Our service will

be preceded by a supper time from 6:00-7:00 pm. with a sign-along around the tables.

The sermon titles and dates are:

Lent 1, Ash Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Only Jesus Can Cleanse the Temple!

Lent 2, Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Only Jesus Is Worth That Much!

Lent 3, Wednesday, March 23, 2011

Only Jesus Could Challenge Us to Move Mountains!

Lent 4, Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Only Jesus Can Make Us Look Up on the Last Day!

Lent 5, Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Only Jesus Would Wait So Long for Someone!

Lent 6, Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Only Jesus Would Let Someone Else Determine His Destiny!

Lent 3, Wednesday,

Applying Bible Principles



"Male peacocks are interesting creatures. They love to be noticed, so they spread their bright plumage for any and all to see (especially female peacocks!)."

Many people are like that, especially when it comes to their financial support of the Lord's work. They want people to notice their act of giving, when they give, how much they give, and the causes to which they give. Some even announce publicly how much they give, supposedly to challenge others to follow their pattern of generosity.

But is that God's way? A simple examination of the sixth chapter of Matthew's gospel reveals the answer. The Lord Jesus said that our giving is to be done secretly. If we

take His instruction at face value, then it is apparent that we are not to let others know the extent of our giving. In fact, Jesus went so far as to say (figuratively, of course) that we shouldn't even let one hand know what the other is doing when it comes to our giving.

Sometimes our giving will be seen by men. Sometimes that's unavoidable. But Christ's point concerns our motive. We should give to please our Lord, not in order to be seen by other people so that we receive their commendation or accolades. In other words, we are to avoid what one writer described as "advertised piety."

A well-known evangelist said that the world has yet to see what could be ac-

complished for the sake of the gospel if we would quit being concerned about who gets the credit for what gets done in the kingdom of God. That includes our giving. In fact, one of the greatest tests for us as God's children is whether we are able to give cheerfully of ourselves and our resources without getting the credit.

Unless we give by cash and choose to forgo a tax deduction for our giving (hmm . . . now there's a novel idea!), probably only the person who handles the church's financial affairs will be aware of our giving. Otherwise, though, it's a good idea to keep our giving a matter that's between ourselves and the Lord. Actually, it's more than a good idea. It's something Christ said we should do!

BIRTHDAYS— FEBRUARY



2 James Boyer
3 Billy Arial
3 Dina Vance
3 Kristin Ward
4 Connie Nicholson
7 Isabella Eshoo
8 Kristen Blake
9 Grant Nelson
11 Stephanie Pedersen
12 Myranda Lynch
13 Gabrielle Printz

14 Danielle Almeida
14 Ken White
14 Miah Williamsen
15 Laura Burgess
15 Samantha Frye
16 Mark Rasmussen
19 Craig Fury
19 Charles Pipus
19 Laura Strech
22 Carlene Ladely
22 Jeannine Nunes

23 Bonnie Martini
25 Lisa Lomeli
27 Ken Blake
28 Kayla Kawasaki
29 Nichole Angotti

March

1 Debra Lamar
1 Gottfried Stonitsch
3 Allyne Pippus

FEBRUARY— ANNIVERSARY

February 1, 1958 - 54 Years – Louis & Mary Siegert

*Joyeux
Anniversaire*

STEWARDSHIP NEWSLETTER — FEBRUARY 2011

The four Sundays in February are in the Epiphany season of the Church Year calendar. Epiphany is a word that means "showing forth" or "manifesting." The Epiphany season begins on January 6 with the visit of the Wise Men to worship the Baby Jesus as the newborn King of the Jews. The season continues with the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, the calling of His first disciples, His preaching the good news of salvation and the opening of His famous Sermon on the Mount. In the four Gospel readings for February we find Jesus

teaching that we are lights in this spiritually dark world who give evidence of our new birth as Christians as we love even our enemies and seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. To live that way is truly an "epiphany experience" to show that we really belong to our Lord Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit live renewed lives.

That's what Christian stewardship is all about! Wise Christian stewards manage all of life and life's resources for

God's purposes and do it freely and joyfully! We practice the kind of stewardship that is pleasing to our Lord when we give freely and generously of our time to serve in special ways that bless the mission of the church and the people living in our communities. This kind of stewardship is also shown when we freely and joyfully offer our talents and skills to help the church prosper and make life sweeter for those around us. This kind of stewardship continues when we give freely and joyfully of our financial resources to support the work of the church in nurturing believers and reaching out to invite others to know Jesus.

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Council Officers for January—June 2011

OUR ELECTED LEADERS

- ELDERS – Dr. E F de Fisher, Larry Ladely, Claude Schmies, Louis Siegert and George Vance.
PRESIDENT – JR Johnson
VICE PRESIDENT – Tom Fresquez
SECRETARY – Bonnie Martini
FINANCIAL SECRETARY—Shelby Vance

- TREASURER – Carole Fury
BOARD OF TRUSTES – Norman Dahl, Claude Schmies & George Vance
BOARD OF EVANGELISM – vacant
BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Karen Johnson
BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP – Harriette Acorne
BOARD OF YOUTH MINISTRY – vacant

- BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP – Laura Strech
BOARD OF WORSHIP – Vivian Bauer & Molly Schmies

Elder Chairperson: Claude Schmies

Secretary: Lou Siegert



St. John Lutheran Church NEW Website

St. John Lutheran Church Website
Webmaster: Jonathon Koch
Website Link:

www.sjlutheran.thelinker.biz

Check out this website. We would like to thank Jonathon Koch for creating this website for St. John Lutheran Church.



STEWARDSHIP NEWSLETTER—FEBRUARY 2011—CON'T

Epiphany is a word that means “showing forth” or “manifesting.”

Many people view Christian stewardship as something that we have to do [a command] in order to be true followers of Jesus. That simply is not true! Real Christian stewardship is the privilege of offering all that we are and have to make a difference in this world of spiritual darkness. Just as Jesus came on that first Christmas to bring light to a darkened world, so we are called to follow His example. Will we follow in His footsteps perfectly, use all that we are and

have in truly unselfish ways and be willing to make sacrifices so the mission of Christ’s church on earth may prosper and become a home for many more redeemed people? No, of course not! We are sinners and will fall short of the glory of God. But, in Christ, God has declared us to be saints because our sins and shortcomings have been forgiven and the Holy Spirit empowers us to let our lights shine so that people will see our good deeds and praise our Father in

heaven.

The bottom line for Christian stewards is to hear and obey our Lord’s words when he taught: *“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things [material blessings] will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.” (Matthew 6:33-34 NIV)*

Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:45 a.m. Bible Class
8:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Divine Service

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Preschool
Matins

The monthly newsletter will be placed in your church mailbox, emailed to you, or sent by USPS. Please let us know your preference. The next Newsletter will be available on March 6, 2011

If you are submitting an article for the newsletter,

we must have an electronic version of your submission. Email your article to: stjohn.petaluma@sbcglobal.net

The **deadline** for the March, 2011 Newsletter is February 23.

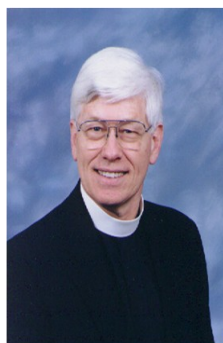


Pastor Mueller Office Hours—Tuesday and Thursday

Office Hours for Pastor Mueller

Weekly on Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Pastor Mueller has an “open door” policy that means when his office door is open anyone may come in and when closed he is with someone.



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH—PETALUMA

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Preschool: 707-762-8520



We're on the Web!
www.sjlutheran.thelinker.biz

PRESCHOOL NEWS—PAULETTE MILLER

Dear Friends in Christ:
Here is a little information on the preschool. We are at 14 students as of now. There have been several tours this year. Parents who are looking into our summer program and enrolling in the fall. Through we are still on a slow pace – I truly believe our LORD has plans for both St. John Church and Preschool. Please continue your prayers.

As we celebrate the month of “LOVE”, (February) the preschool is expressing how much Jesus loves us. Our little ones will be having a Valentines Party this month. Our Pre-K children will be going to Petaluma High Wildlife Museum – February 26, 2011. The children have been learning about Arctic & wild animals.

The children are having Chapel with Pastor on Thursday!

We though going to the museum will be a great way to end our theme.

Happy Birthday to:
Luke Velez – 2/7/06
Angelo & Jacob Terantino – 2/14/06
Noelle Brindmore – 2/17/07
Max King – 2/20/08

Congratulations to Mylie Smithand her family on a new baby boy. God Bless!

USHERS—ELDERS—LYDIA CIRCLE—LWML SCHEDULES

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHEDULE FOR LWML—LYDIA CIRCLE AND ELDERS

LWML 2011

January 24—1:00 pm—Flo Olsen
February—No Meeting
March 22—12 Noon—Luncheon—Carole Fury
April—No Meeting
May 17—1:00 pm—Norma Woelbing
June—No Meeting
July 19—1:00 pm—Dessert—Shelby Vance
August—No Meeting
September 20—1:00 pm—Desert—Pat Breeden
October—No Meeting

November—No Meeting
December 3—12 Noon
Nancy Fresquez & Bonnie Martini—Restaurant
LYDIA CIRCLE
February 9—Florence Piepenbrink
March 9—Eileen Maier
April 13—Mary Siegert
May 11—Barbara Blankenship
June 8—Lois Hart

27 – Larry Ladely
March
6 - Claude Schmies
13 – George Vance
20 – Lardey Ladely
27 – Claude Schmies

Usher’s Schedule not available at this time.

ELDERS SERVICE

FEBRUARY
13 – Claude Schmies
20 – George Vance