

JANUARY, 2011


THE VOICE
Of Pentecost Lutheran Church

www.pentecost-racine.org

As forgiven children of God, we, the Pentecost Family of Faith, are committed to show everyone Life in Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

A new year is upon us! And with that New Year, this is a typical time to take a look at yourself and reevaluate some of the things that are going on in your life. A chance to make changes; to make resolutions about certain things that you want to improve in your life. Resolutions can be far and wide ranging. Many are health related: with dieting, exercise, or eating healthier. While others are more mental: taking a class, reading more, or picking up a new hobby.

The easy part of resolutions is making them... the hard part is keeping them! We all know in our hearts the things that we would like to see improvement in ourselves, or I'm sure we can ask a trusted friend or loved one and seek their opinion on what they think we can do better at.

But making the resolution in January is much easier than seeing that resolution through to December. One of the resolutions I seem to make every year is I would like to find more time to read. I enjoy curling up with a good book and getting lost in a different world. A good book can be much like a movie where you are transported to a different time and place and the cares and concerns of your every day life are left behind you. You sympathize with the characters and feel for them when things go wrong and you rejoice with them and their happy endings.

As I had mentioned earlier, one of my resolutions last year was to read more. While it can be hard to measure what "more" is, I set out with the goal of reading the entire Bible in one year. I have attempted this before and have heard of others who struggled to read the Bible from cover to cover. Some struggle through the family line of "begats" in the book of Genesis and they give up early. So I found a copy of *The One Year Bible*, which is a book that divides up the Scriptures into daily readings. Each day there is an Old Testament text, a New Testament text, a Psalm, and a Proverb to read. Over 365 days, one will have read the Bible from cover to cover (just not in the same way you would read a regular novel).

I am proud to say that my goal is almost accomplished. I have fallen a little behind schedule, but I hope to finish in the first few days of January.

Making resolutions can be fun, especially when you are able to stick with them. So my challenge to you this coming year is to make a resolution to be in God's Word more often. Whether that be in attending worship on a more regular basis, joining a Bible study, picking up a daily devotional book, or taking up the challenge of reading the Bible in one year. Find ways to improve your Bible understanding and you might be surprised to see how it may affect your life. If you come across something in your reading that puzzles you or you would like to understand it more, feel free to drop me a line and ask. Send an email, pass a note, or just ask, and I would be happy to walk alongside of you in your spiritual walk with God.

Pastor J

January

Birthdays

Delores Hegge - 01/01	Grant Barclay - 01/17
Richard Rognsvoog - 01/01	Megan Larson - 01/17
Mason Wagner - 01/01	John Kmetz - 01/18
Dylan Scacco - 01/02	Walter Wilckens - 01/19
Jennifer Rocco - 01/03	Raynae Hensel - 01/22
Joyce Wood - 01/03	David Wagner - 01/25
Justin Ankley - 01/04	Dale Pischke - 01/26
Erin Decker - 01/04	Sue Murcek - 01/27
Janis DeKeuster - 01/06	Anne Chasar - 01/28
Kathy McGregor - 01/13	Corrine Schrubbe - 01/28
Andrea Wilkinson - 01/13	Diane Prell - 01/29



Diane & Elmer Prell
January 3rd - 56 years

Arlene & Robert
Verborg
January 16th - 46 years

William & Joyce Wood
January 31st - 58 years



Welcome
Our New
Members

Larry & Rebecca Kragh

Kelvin & Yvonne Nowak

Sue Johnson, Dale Petrowsky &
Tyler Vance



UPDATE



Elizabeth McGregor
1032 Hayes Ave.
Racine, WI 53405
262-498-6228

Mike & Amanda McCray
2619 1/2 W. High St.
Racine, WI 53404

Voters' Meeting January 2nd



Due to the inclement weather on December 14, there were some orders of business we did not want to proceed with that day due to the small quorum in

attendance. We will continue the meeting on Sunday, January 2nd, 2011. The agenda will include election of officers, tithing from the Anne Sovish Estate, and discussing the elevator-style lift. All members over 18 years of age are encouraged to attend.



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

All reports for the 2010 Annual Report need to be turned in to Sue Hasko by January 16th. You can e-mail them to me at suehasko@wi.rr.com, or you can place them in my mailbox in the narthex.



De-decorating of the church will take place on Saturday, January 8th at 9:00 am. The more volunteers, the less time it will take!!!!

A big thank you to the following who came on Saturday December 4th, and the previous Thursday to help decorate and beautify our Church for Christmas: Mary Boudreau; Cindy Honore; Jack Maloney; Kathy Merrill; Art Preuss; and Birgit Winterle. Special thanks to Pastor Babel for coming out on that snowy Saturday, to deliver the Nativity figurines for the Altar. Thanks again. - Bob Winterle



The 2011 Flower Chart is up in the narthex. If you would like to place flowers on the altar for a special occasion, please sign up on the chart. Please indicate whether you are keeping them, otherwise your arrangement will be given to a local nursing home. Contact Sue Murcek or Janet Greco if you have any questions.



CHURCH
D I R E C T O R Y

me your information at suehasko@wi.rr.com

A new directory will be printed soon. If you have a change in address or phone number, please let Sue Hasko know. Also, if you would like to add your e-mail address and cell phone numbers, you can do that too. You can e-mail

PICK 'N SAVE "WE CARE" PROGRAM

We received our next Pick 'N Save check for \$64.96! Keep shopping! Remember, every time you shop at Pick 'N Save and you give them your card, you support Pentecost. If you still need to sign up see Sue Murcek.



Racine Lutheran High School is excited to invite you to attend the **Red-Hot Valentine's Gala**. Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 12, at 5 p.m., at Roma Lodge. The complete evening on the town includes a gourmet dinner, dancing to the live music of Chicago's famous High Society Orchestra, games, and auctions. Tickets for this Valentine's celebration are only \$50 per person, and tables of 8 are available. This event welcomes everyone – the more the merrier! Invite your friends. To add your name to the invitation list or to make a donation, please call LHS at 262-637-6538 or e-mail Bonnie at bchristensen@racinelutheran.org.



Fun for Seniors

55+CLUB - First of all, we want to Thank Everyone for making our Christmas Party a big success. **CHANGE OF DATE:** 55+Club will meet on Tuesday, January 11th in the Fellowship Hall at 1pm, weather permitting. Bingo will be played, so bring along 2 or 3 door prizes. Pastor will be the Bingo Caller, Desert, Fellowship and Fun will be had. Anybody 55+ is welcome to join in on the fun. - Mary Ann Graves & Donna Rick-Walters



We have been blessed with lots of canned food donations and gift cards for the food pantry -what a wonderful thing! Thank you to everyone that continues to donate- the people that are being helped are very grateful. The items most needed on an ongoing basis are

milk, juice, bread and butter, and meat. These can go in the refrigerator or freezer with a note indicating they are for the food pantry. Thank you for your continued support. - Sheri Hansen-Food Pantry Coordinator



December had us sharing "A Cup of Christmas Tea", written by Tom Hegg, which was a lovely, short poem, that helped us remember the true spirit of Christmas. It was a nice introduction into the holiday season, where we also had our annual cookie exchange, and let me tell you, it was not a disappointment! There was such a huge variety of cookies, and naturally we sampled them all before we divied them up. The big mystery was how Tim was able to bake the delicious cookies he brought.....hmmmm.....hidden talents? Good delegating skills? Or excellent shopping savvy? It was a fun evening. We are looking forward to our next book club meeting, where we we all get to share a biography or autobiography of our choice. This is one of Helen's favorites, and we all enjoy it too! So pick someone you want to learn more about, read it and come prepared to tell us a little bit about the book. Susan Murcek has volunteered to host the next meeting on Saturday, January 29th at 6:30pm, 7020 Mariner Dr., #104. Please consider yourself invited to join in anytime. We truly enjoy not only the book reading, but also the camaraderie, and of course the tasty treats. Don't be shy! If you ever have any questions about the book club, please contact Kathy McGregor, 262-634-0938.



Mitten Tree

COPS 'N KIDS THANK YOU –

A special thank you to the congregation for supporting the Cops 'N Kids community program. Thank you to Ellen Geyer for selling the handmade items and to all those who purchased those items. This is always a worthwhile project – very much appreciated by Julia Burney-Witherspoon, director of the program. Thanks again for your generosity – Janet Greco

Sunday School



This month our Sunday School Students worked very hard on the Christmas program. On December 19th they presented our Tree-mendous show for the congregation. The idea of the show was that the Christmas tree and the ornaments that the children put on the tree represent Jesus and his Tree-mendous love for us. It started with bells to call us to remember that God asks for one gift only; the gift of our hearts given to the Christ who is coming into the world. Next were the gingerbread cookies to show how much God loves people. The children put gifts on the tree to remind us that wrapped inside is God's wonderful gift of Jesus. They put candy canes up to remember the shepherd's staff and turned

upside down it is a "J" for Jesus. Pastor Jacob then added a star to the top of the tree for us to bring to mind the star that hung over Bethlehem to mark the spot where Jesus was. The poinsettia was added next. It is bright red to remind us that Jesus came to shed His blood on the cross, and the petals look like the star of Bethlehem. After that, we heard about the magi who came to find the king, and we added a crown ornament to our tree. Next came a candle to show that Jesus is the light of the world. Finally, we were reminded that the story doesn't end at the stable, it continues on to the cross, so we added a cross with nails to help us remember that Jesus died on the cross for us. During the program the grumpy janitor(Ian) and the kid(Noah) interrupted us. As the show went on the janitor became less grumpy and helped the kid learn about the real Christmas story. All in all it was truly a tree-mendous show!

Sunday school has also been collecting offerings the first half of the year to go toward helping Gianni Greco. We are pleased that we met and exceeded our goal of \$100 and will be giving this to Gianni. We will decide on a project for our offerings for the rest of the year.

Our Windows And the Stories They Tell

Epiphany, January 6th, is the time when Jesus was made known to the Gentiles. The Magi or “Three Kings” remind us of this. The Baptism of Jesus is celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany. These two windows are on your left as you’re looking at the altar.



Epiphany

Matthew 2:1-2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

A star is the traditional symbol for Epiphany, the time when Jesus was made known to the Gentiles, or non-Jewish people. The star alerted the Magi to start their journey and later directed them to the place where Jesus was living. The Magi, who were learned men of the East, came first to Jerusalem. They were looking for a king, so came to the capital city.

The Bible does not tell us the number of Magi or exactly when they arrived. The number three probably came from their three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. There were most likely many people in their group since it would not have been safe for a small group to travel so far alone. Although we often see them pictured at the manger, we are told in Matthew 2:11 that they came to the house. We also know that when God warned them not to return to Herod, the king had all of the boy babies up to two years old killed..

The Magi's gift of gold symbolized Christ's kingship; the frankincense, His divinity; and the myrrh, His humility (associated with burying.)

As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward,
beaming bright,
So most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by
Thee.



Jesus' Baptism

Matthew 3:16-17 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Also: Mark 1:10-11, Luke 3:21-22

Luke tells us that Jesus was about 30 years old (Luke 3:23) when He was baptized and began His public ministry. Matthew gives us a reason for the baptism--"it is proper to do this to fulfill all righteousness (Matthew 3:15). At this time John publicly announced the arrival of the Messiah and beginning of His ministry. By His baptism, Jesus identified Himself with man's sin and He set an example for His followers.

At Jesus baptism, the three persons of the Trinity were present. In this window they are also represented. The Chi Rho which looks like the English letters X and P is a monogram formed from the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ. The dove is the Holy Spirit, and the rays the voice of the Father.

The shell with the drops of water symbolize both Jesus's baptism and ours. The three drops signify that we are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Through our baptism, we have become a new person in God.

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me After Thy will,



Choir – Singing **His** Praises
Join Us
Wednesday Nights – 7 PM



*...From the Manger to the Cross
Tree-Mendous Love*

Student Musicians

- Violin – Dylan Schrubbe
- Piano – Haley Pilcher
- Drums- Ian Barclay
- Trumpet/Ukulele – Dan Hasko



Genevieve Barclay – in September with her “long locks” and in December with her “short locks”. Genevieve recently had her hair cut for **Locks of Love**, an organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada who are suffering from long-term medical hair loss. We’re proud of one of our younger members for finding a way to share her love.

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Youth Group – Looking Ahead:

Feb. 19, 2011 – Annual Ski Trip/Lock-in with Concordia University YMIN Team!



July 7 – 10, 2011 – District Youth Gathering in Clark NJ. Theme: “Come to the Waters”. Tentative plans include a cruise around New York City, a “shore day”, a trip to “Little India” in NJ, fun, fellowship, Bible Study, and getting to know new friends from around the country, etc.



July 1 – 5, 2013 – LCMS National Youth Gathering, San Antonio TX. Ok, it’s 2.5 yrs away, but let’s start planning now! Let us know if you are interested in joining 25,000 youth in San Antonio in 2013! The dates are a Monday through Friday, and include the 4th of July holiday.