



From Pastor Disney

If you came into a room and saw that I had a fan running you might not think much of it until you saw that I had it hooked up to extension cords that ran out the window. You might ask, "Where do you have that plugged in?" Would you believe me if I told you that it has an eternal number of extension cords that go on forever and so it is not plugged into anything? I doubt that you would believe that.

But oddly enough that is kind of what some people believe about the universe we live in. They believe that it has been around forever or at least so long that everything just sort of happened on its own. If you believe that, I have a rope with only one end that I would like to sell you. Logic tells us that the world had to have a beginning. Even science seems to be finding evidence that the universe had a beginning.

Even if everything came from some long process that process would have to have so much order and design to it that you have to explain where that design and order came from in the first place. The more time you think the world has been in ex-

Without ever opening the Bible there are plenty of reasons to believe that there is a God.

istence the more you increase the odds that there has to be something watching over it, since you increase the odds of the planet getting wiped out by a meteor, or who knows what kind of calamity. Even those who want to believe in some process

of evolution need to explain how there was enough order and design to get that started. Attributing it to mere chance is almost ridiculous. Maybe you have heard the old question of how long would it take a bunch of monkeys randomly banging on typewriters before they would come up with a simple sentence with 16 letters that makes sense. If you give them

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St. John's Lutheran Church

302 NE 2nd Street

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Buffalo, MN 55313

Phone: 763-682-1883

Youth Line: 763-684-0460

Fax: 763-682-1936

Noah's Ark Pre-School: 763-682-1368

info@stjohnsbuffalo.org

www.stjohnsbuffalo.org

Staff:

Rev. James Disney, Senior Pastor

jdisney@stjohnsbuffalo.org

Rev. Christian Bode, Assoc. Pastor

cbode@stjohnsbuffalo.org

Kelly Ohland, DCE, Youth Director

kohland@stjohnsbuffalo.org

Zoe Eckblad, Office Administrator

info@stjohnsbuffalo.org

Dan & Jackie Korb, Custodians

korb@stjohnsbuffalo.org

Jim Chapa, Treasurer

Mary Peterson, Financial Secretary

Cheryl Olsen, Board Secretary

Mary Marty, Music Director

Nicky Haskins, Noah's Ark Preschool

noahsark@stjohnsbuffalo.org

Worship Times:

Saturday 7:00 pm

Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 am

Sunday's Service Radio Broadcast on

KRWC 1360 AM

Sundays at 8:00 am

Office Hours:

M-F 8:30-4:30

Chairman of the Congregation

Wayne Rebischke

Board of Elders

elders@stjohnsbuffalo.org

Roger Strege, Head Elder

Gregg Beckman

Nyles Gentz

Dan Green

Dave Haggerty

Dan Husom

Richard Marquette

Glenn Ross

Lee Ryan

Board Chairs

Altar Guild: Dorothy Bowman

Education: Open

Evangelism: Roger Strege

Fellowship: Bill Cook

Kid's Club: Ken and Amy Hill

Library: Shala Holm

Memorial Endowment/Investment:

Janice Marschel

Project Compassion: Sandi Baert

Sanctuary Decorating: Shala Holm

Stewardship: Karen Rebischke

Trustees: Justin Bonk

Women in Mission: Chris Husom

Worship: Pastor Disney

Youth & Family Ministry: Nate Randt

Newsletter Deadline:

Deadline for the April newsletter is Monday, March 15th.

Join the Newsletter Mailing Crew on Tuesday, March 23rd at 9:00 am.

(Note, this is the 4th not last Tuesday.)

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesday at midnight

(Continued from page 1)

one chance every second it would take 2 million billion years to exhaust all the possibilities. In other words the possibility that the universe is the product of pure chance is very remote.

The point of all this is that in the beginning the universe had to be caused by something that transcends and is unlike all that was created. If the universe is changeable the cause of it must be unchanging. If the universe had a beginning it must be caused by something that has no beginning or an end, in other words is eternal. Finally and most remarkable, such a first cause of the universe is probably personal. This is because the only things that possess the necessary properties are either minds or abstract objects like numbers. Numbers can't cause anything. So the universe must be caused by something like a mind.

The reason I share this with you is because it shows that even without ever opening the Bible there are plenty of reasons to believe that there is a God. There is a movement afoot called the New-Atheism. Writers like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens argue that not only is it wrong to believe in God but that faith is the source of a lot of harm. They say that relig-

ion causes wars and anger and divisions between people. I don't think that is any more significant than saying that people do dumb things and it would be a better world if they didn't do dumb things. This is where it is helpful to accept the biblical explanation of a world created good but now fallen into sin.

Above all it is important to keep in mind that the new atheists want to contend that everything has to be explained by science. This is not acceptable since science cannot even explain numbers. There are moral arguments, historical arguments, and philosophical arguments that lead to the conclusion that there is a God. The question of whether there is a God is by its very definition a question that goes outside of what can be observed by science. This does not mean that science is bad, in fact science is good. Ultimately science confirms what we know. Those of us who live in a relationship with God know on some unexplainable level that He is there, and no argument can deny the power of those feelings. I hope that this has helped you feel a little better prepared the next time someone challenges you with the Big question.

God bless you with courage in your convictions.

Pastor Disney

From Pastor Bode

Praying with Others

Last month I shared what is referred to as the “Five Finger Prayer” – a method of praying for a variety of people, including our leaders, teachers, families and so on.

But because prayer is such a vast subject, this month I’d like us to consider prayer from a different angle. The Five Finger Prayer is something that is useful when praying by ourselves. Another way of praying, however, is to pray WITH other people. This too is a vital way of communicating with God. Sometimes when we pray with other people it’s what we call corporate prayer, where we are all praying together at the same time. We do this when we speak the Lord’s Prayer during Sunday morning worship. We are also accustomed to corporate prayer before meal time or perhaps at bedtime with our children.

Individual and corporate prayer are good ways of praying. And for the most part we are comfortable with both methods.

One way of praying that we may be less familiar or comfortable with, however, is what we could

describe as one-on-one prayer. This is where one person is standing or sitting next to another and praying for him. In this kind of a setting someone might pray that the person find employment or that their marriage be mended or that they be healed of a particular ailment.

Now praying in this way or receiving this kind of prayer from another might be outside of our comfort zone, so why would we do it? Because God promises to hear the prayers of His people for Jesus’ sake. We believe that just as Jesus did the miraculous during His earthly ministry, that He does so today. And prayer is a way through which we experience those wonders of God!

One of the reasons I share these things with you now is that we will soon be training people at St. John’s to pray for others. Those who are trained



will then be available Sunday mornings to pray for individuals in a way that preserves the privacy and dignity of the person who is receiving the prayer. You may be interested in being trained or being prayed for or both. But whatever the case may be we want you to be

aware of this coming opportunity.

If you should have any questions about prayer ministry at St. John's please contact Pastor Disney or me. And may God make us at St. John's a people of prayer.

St. John's Lutheran Mission \$ at Work



Along with your March Church Bell, you are receiving an envelope supporting our 2010 Lenten Gift Program.

Being mindful of the needs of others is one of the most gracious things we can do. Food Shelves are being used more frequently than ever before. The timeliness of the March Food Shelf Campaign is especially meaningful as it is matched by the Minnesota Food Share program. As a result, our contributions will make a difference in their lives of many individuals and families in the Buffalo area.

Over the years our congregation has been generous with offerings of food items and the monthly requested items. It is known, however, that cash donations go a lot further when it comes to buying food. The volunteers at the Food Shelf have access to purchasing food in larger quantities at better pricing than we as individuals can purchase at the grocery store. For example, with as little as \$1.50 the Food Shelf can buy a case of green beans from Second Harvest. Some months when food donations are down, the money is used to purchase food locally.

Please drop your Gold Gift envelope in the offering plate by Sunday, March 28th. Make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church with a memo for the Buffalo Food Shelf. This way you will receive credit on your year-end Offering Statement.

May God continue to Bless each of you for your generosity and love given toward this mission outreach.

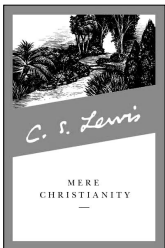
Lent at St. John's



Throughout Lent St. John's will offer worship services at 4:30 and 7:00 pm. There will be a supper served between services from 5:15 to 6:30 pm and will be a fundraiser for our Youth. Please see the article in the Youth and Family Ministry Section about helping with the food.

Hi Members of St Johns

I am looking for 3-4 volunteers to take turns cleaning the family life center and the reception area, Friday mornings or afternoons. Duties would include light dusting, vacuuming, and washing windows. If interested please call Jackie Korbel at 763-682-1883 ext 28. Thank you for your consideration, Jackie.



Book Group

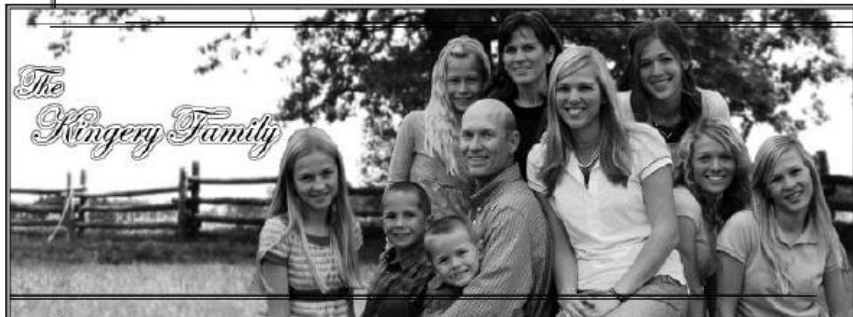
Join us March 2nd at 7:00 pm to discuss C.S. Lewis's book *Mere Christianity*. If you don't have a copy, contact Sue Schleif who can obtain one for you at a reduced cost.

Mere Christianity is the most popular of C. S. Lewis's works of non-fiction. Heard first as radio addresses and then published as three separate books—The Case for Christianity, Christian Behavior, and Beyond Personality—this book brings together Lewis's legendary war time broadcasts in which he set out simply to explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times.

St. John's Helps Haiti

Through the generosity of our members we collected **\$2,057.23** in donations for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's **Haiti Human Care Project** of which 90% goes directly to Haiti.

A Bluegrass Concert with
THE KINGERY FAMILY



Friday, March 5th
 7:00 pm

St. John's Lutheran Church
 Family Life Center



Free Admission
 Refreshments at intermission
 There will be a free-will offering

St. John's Lutheran Church
 302 2nd Street NE, Buffalo, MN 55313
 763-682-1883
info@stjohnsbuffalo.org

St. John's Lutheran Wish List

Automatic External Defibrillators for Sanctuary and Life Center
 (2 @ \$1000.00 each)

Cost	Rec'd YTD	Balance
\$2000.00	\$1200.00	\$800.00



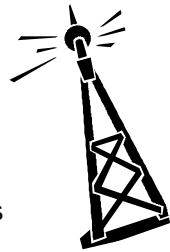
Some PEP for your Bible Study

Enjoy a casual study of the Bible with PEP (People Enjoying People). PEP meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month in room 110 across from Noah's Ark Preschool. We begin with a brief Bible study led by Pastor Klemz followed by a variety of activities which may include joke telling, cards and games. In March we meet on the 2nd & the 16th from 9:00 am to 11:30. Bring your own beverage; come whenever you can; stay as long as you want. There is no regular commitment. The more the merrier.

Radio Sponsors Needed

March 7, 14 & 21

Reserve your 2010 dates now!



Each Sunday at 8:00 am, KRWC 1360AM broadcasts our Worship Service throughout Wright County. We need broadcast sponsors to help cover the cost of this valuable service for our shut in members and also as an important outreach into the community. Sponsoring one of our broadcasts is also an opportunity to honor anniversaries and birthdays or make memorials. The Pastors will announce your name and dedication on air when they welcome the radio listeners. The cost to sponsor one broadcast and its promotional announcements is \$150.00. To reserve your date, call the church office at 763-682-1883. Checks can be left in the offering plate or church office with "KRWC" in the memo line.



World Ministry Fund

LCEF's *Special Interest Fund* allows investors to contribute all or part of their interest earned from their LCEF account for a specific time period to a specific LCMS ministry such as a congregation, school, mission field, partner church, social ministry, or recognized service organization. Any LCEF investor can participate and help fund short-term ministry needs or start-up costs for new ministries of LCMS partner churches around the world. Visit lcef.org or call 1-800-843-5233.



The Dead Sea Scrolls Words that Changed the World

Experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness one of the greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century - The Dead Sea Scrolls, which include the earliest known Biblical writings. These 2,000 year-old authentic text fragments are steeped in scientific, religious, and cultural significance. Just ask anyone from our group that went to the Holy Land.

The Fellowship Board has a limited number of tickets reserved for The Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit at The Science Museum of Minnesota on Sunday, April 11th. We will leave from Church (Family Life Center parking lot) at 12:30 to allow enough time to pick up our tickets prior to entering the exhibit at 2:00. If enough people are interested, we can stop for supper on the way home. Ticket price is \$22.00 which includes: museum admission, The Saint John's Bible exhibition, and the Dead Sea Scrolls audio tour (but not the Omnitheater). Deadline to sign up is March 28th. For more information go to www.smm.org/scrolls or call Bill Cook at 763-682-4094. Complete sign-up form below, attach check payable to St. John's, and drop in collection plate or church office.

Name _____

Number of tickets _____

Phone # _____

Need a ride? _____

Can you provide a ride? _____

Want to stop for supper? _____



Fan into Flame

St. John's Lutheran voted to participate in the Ablaze!® *Fan into Flame* effort at the Quarterly Voter's meeting in October, 2008. During 2010, the following Special Contribution offerings will go toward our commitment to the project: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

We have committed to a five year response to the *Fan into Flame* effort. Based upon the size and budget of our congregation, we have a goal to raise \$10,000 per year. This will be a combination of allocating the above mission dollars to Ablaze!® (around \$6,000) with the balance hopefully coming from gifts by members. A total of \$7,670.00 was given in 2009 which included a contribution from LWML Country Fair funds.

St. John's will receive 15% of these funds back to be used to support community projects within St. John's. Please be thinking of ideas of how we can best use those dollars and share your ideas with our Ablaze!® Mission Group.

Lent Message from the Stewardship Board

On February 17th we joined Christians around the world in observing the season of Lent. Lent is a deeply spiritual time as we reflect on the tremendous love and sacrifice of Jesus for us so that we might have forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. The price of our redemption was overwhelming. As Dr. Martin Luther said in explaining the second article of the Apostles Creed ***“Jesus, my Lord, has redeemed me a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.”*** As Jesus Himself said, ***“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”*** (John 15:13 NIV)

Dr. Luther went on with his explanation to state that Jesus made this supreme sacrifice ***“so that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true!”***

In Jesus we have been redeemed from all sins, including the sin of selfishly wanting to use all of God’s blessings for our own needs and wants rather than using them to His glory and the welfare of our neighbor. Selfishness is not part of good stewardship! Here is a definition of good and godly stewardship: ***“God’s redeemed stewards, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, freely and joyfully manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.”***

Lent provides us with an excellent opportunity to reflect on what is really important and worth spending our lives and resources on. During this 2010 season of Lent may God’s Holy Spirit help us to understand that God wants to use us as instruments in His hands to touch the lives of others in ways that make an eternal difference. As we are led to accept this truth we will better understand what it means to use our time, our skills and talents, and our financial resources in loving and sacrificial ways.

What a time of spiritual growth the season of Lent can be for us as we strive to spend our lives and resources on things that really matter and last beyond our lifetimes. God’s redeemed stewards want to make this world a better place because we have been here. May the love and sacrifice of Jesus so impress us that we will want to reach out in loving and sacrificial ways.

“God’s redeemed and maturing stewards do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all they do.”



Women In Mission

We volunteer every year at Feed My Starving Children and this year we are going to join our Youth Group on Friday, March 26th in Coon Rapids. We'll leave from the church at 8:00 and be at FMSC for the 9:30 to 11:30 shift. It'll be a fun morning—we'll challenge the kids to see who can pack the most in the shortest amount of time.

Feed My Starving Children is one of the many mission projects we sponsor. Helping for a couple of hours is a great way to learn more about the wonderful work they do and is guaranteed to brighten your day. Call Chris at 682-3997 or the church office at 682-1883 if you can go. Thanks!

The Litchfield Zone Spring Rally is coming up Saturday, April 24th at St. James Lutheran church in Howard Lake from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. A group from an area church went on a mission trip to Uganda and will share the highlights of their experiences. Cost of the rally is \$5.00. All are invited.

St. John's is part of the Crow River Conference. This year, it is our turn to host the biennial Minnesota South Convention. It will be held at the Mankato Verizon Center June 25-27. Lillian Kent is organizing the registration and Ruth Jans is making a baby quilt that will be used as a banner for the event. Our Women in Mission will pay the



“The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him.”
Nahum 1:7

registration fee for two delegates. If you are interested, please contact us for more information.

Each Tuesday afternoon you have the opportunity to work on quilts and other projects in the Sewing Room, off the Fellowship Hall. We welcome you to come whenever you can.

If you know of a specific mission need, please tell us. There are mite boxes on the bookshelf in the east narthex. Feel free to take one and fill it to help support our mission projects. Please join us for our business meeting, monthly Bible study or for any of our projects as we Serve the Lord With Gladness!

Upcoming Events:

March 4th: Board Meeting at 5:30, Bible Study, “Bible Study, “What Would Joseph Say? A Study of the Earthly Father of Jesus” at 6:15. The study is in the Winter Issue of *The Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly*.

March 26th: Package meals at Feed My Starving Children, 9:30-to 11:30 am.

April 24th: Spring Rally at St. James, 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

June 25-27th: MN South LWML Convention in Mankato.

Are You Expecting?

St. John’s Cradle Roll Committee has materials for parents of newborns with suggestions and resources to help them with their child’s spiritual growth from birth to age three. The materials include a Growth Calendar, several books, an audiocassette and newsletters that will be delivered on a regular basis throughout your child’s first three years. We’d like to send the first newsletter, *The Miracle of Birth*, before the arrival of your child. So, if you are expecting, please call or e-mail your name, address and phone number to Theresa at 763-682-6305, wmmhen-son@charter.net or to Sheree at 320-963-6625.



Serving in March

Ushers

8:00 Don Lardy
Gene Jenson
Greg Buttenhoff
Stacy Rutten
Ryan Rutten

10:30 Ted Klemz
Gene Lambert
Dan Green
Jennifer Green

Nursery Volunteers

3/7

9:00 Amy Hill

10:15 Amy Hill

3/14

9:00 Morynn Marx

10:15 Morynn Marx

3/21

9:00 Tracy Madsen

10:15 Jennifer Green

3/28

9:00 Rebecca Mills

10:15 Tracy Madsen

Coffee Heroes

3/7 Priscilla McKenzie

3/14 Youth

3/21 Jill VanLith &

Julie Bruhn

3/28 Youth

Let the Games Begin

That might be a good slogan for the Olympics, but not for a marriage! A Lu-



theran Marriage Encounter Weekend shows couples how to be straightforward and honest in their communication, thus building a foundation for the kind of trust and love every marriage deserves. Each weekend includes two nights in a comfortable hotel and five meals from Friday at 7:00 pm to Sunday at 5:00 pm. Four presenting couples, including a Lutheran clergy couple, give a series of presentations followed by questions the couples discuss in the privacy of their hotel room. The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are March 19-21 in Brooklyn Center; April 16-18 in Duluth or April 30 – May 2 in Alexandria. Please register a month in advance. For more information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete & Phyllis McMahon at 763-561-1575 or visit www.godlovesmarriage.org.

Youth & Family Ministry

For Families



Family Bowling @ Huikko's



March 14th

3-5pm

\$5.00 per person

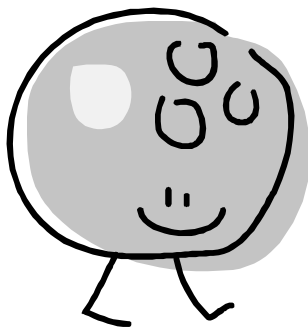
\$20 maximum per family

**Join the St. Johns
Youth and Family Ministry Board
for bowling and a good time
with family and friends.**

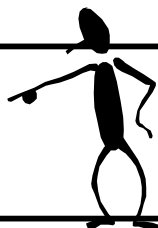
We will meet at Huikko's at 4:00pm.

Everyone is welcome!

**Invite a friend,
bring the family!
For more information
contact Kelly
@ 763-684-0460.**



**Head's up for Parents:
The Kids of the Kingdome
sing March 28th.**



Youth & Family Ministry

For Families

Cooks Needed for Lenten Suppers

The Family Ministry Board is looking for some willing cooks to whip up some soup or chili or whatever for one Wednesday supper during Lent. We'll supply the fixin's to go with it and the serving/clean up help. Here's what's available:

- March 3rd—*Open*
- March 10th—*Chili Cook-off*
- March 17th—*Open*
- March 24th—*Deb Ordorff's Wild Rice Soup*
- April 1st, Maundy Thursday—*Open*



We also need cookies, bars or any other treat that you might be interested in donating for each supper. If you can help, please contact Eldon Peterson 763-682-6901.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

ALL YOUTH ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US MARCH 26TH AS WE TRAVEL TO COON RAPIDS TO HELP PACKAGE FOOD FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE STARVING. A COUPLE HOURS OF PACKAGING FOOD CAN HELP MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE. WE WILL BE LEAVING THE CHURCH AT 8:00 AM AND WILL STOP FOR LUNCH ONE THE WAY HOME. THE COST FOR FRIENDS IS \$5. SIGN UP TODAY!

Youth & Family Ministry

For Youth



Buffalo Youth Food Drive for Hunger

March 13th
9:00am-12:00pm

St. John's Youth in 7th-12th grade are joining forces with other Buffalo youth groups to collect food for the food shelf. We will be meeting at Zion Lutheran Church and then heading out together to collect food. If you are in need of a ride or more information, please contact Kelly @ 763-684-0460 and sign up today on the youth bulletin board!

It's a Girls Night



March 19th
5:00-10:00pm

Calling all Sr. High girls! Come join girls from St. Johns for a chance to have some fun, talk about topics that affect you and pamper yourself. Girls are asked to bring a snack to share, wear your pj's and bring a positive attitude. For more information about this event please contact Kelly @ 763-684-0460.

Sign Up Today!

New! Youth Handbells!



All Youth in grades 4-12 are invited to be a part of a new Handbell Choir which will practice on Wednesdays from 6:00-6:30 pm prior to Confirmation classes. You only need to have a little music knowledge to be playing like a pro. Look for the sign-up sheets on the Sunday School and Cyber Bulletin Boards. The deadline to sign-up is March 24th. Practices will start shortly thereafter.



Birthdays

Laura Dalchow	3/1	Nathan Zitzloff	3/10
Dawn Danielson	3/1	Jack Cummings	3/11
Shyanne Lambrecht	3/1	Rod Holland	3/12
Rio Thelen	3/1	Susan Kohn	3/12
Gracie Bixby	3/2	David Peltz	3/12
Carissa Degen	3/2	Lukas Husom	3/13
Eli Erickson	3/2	Matthew Jurgens	3/13
Madalynn Personius	3/3	Erica Karels	3/13
Ben Walker	3/3	Leah Mussell	3/13
Ryan Cummings	3/4	Andy Baumgard	3/14
Jim Holm	3/4	Garrett Buttenhoff	3/14
Brad Hoseck	3/4	Ryan Finke	3/14
Toni Kock	3/4	Edward Koehn	3/14
Cody Otto	3/4	Shayla Marquette	3/14
Stephanie Berg	3/5	Tom Rassat	3/14
Trina Ellis	3/5	Kelsey Bergman	3/15
Bauer Erickson	3/5	Seth Bode	3/15
Dan Marty	3/5	Tom Johnson	3/15
Heather Spike	3/5	Pat Johnston	3/15
Marilla Frykholm	3/6	Breanna Ordorff	3/15
Jesse Keifenheim	3/6	Scott Raasch	3/15
Brent Laine	3/6	Bernice Ramthun	3/15
Lori Letsinger	3/6	Cole Ruckle	3/15
Samuel Marx	3/6	Parker Ryan	3/16
Eyan Meier	3/6	Scott Wald	3/16
Janessa Piersiak	3/6	Parker Gentz	3/17
Mavis Bonk	3/7	Brad Holland	3/17
Carl Bowman	3/7	Jenny Long	3/17
Jill Furneisen	3/7	Gene Schimmele	3/17
Erin Luchsinger	3/7	John Berg	3/18
Macey Bonk	3/8	Del Larson	3/18
Donald Forsythe	3/8	Steve Miller	3/18
Cindy Stoppelman	3/8	Missy Schoen	3/18
Corey Commerford	3/9	Taylor Varner	3/18
James Bonk	3/10	Hannah Churness	3/19
Michelle Dalchow	3/10	Shelley Fadden	3/19
James Karie	3/10	Theresa Henson	3/19
John Karie	3/10	Kim Miller	3/19
Brad Ordorff	3/10	Eli Radtke	3/19
Edward Peltz	3/10	Evelyn Clermont	3/20
Rod Strenge	3/10	Annuikka Larson	3/20

James Marty	3/20	Jeremy Dahlheimer	3/27
Claire Strege	3/20	Deana Gunderson	3/27
Jason Farruggia	3/21	Sierra Johanson	3/27
Jack Hayes	3/21	Shirley Elletson	3/28
Lucille Packard	3/21	Kathy Forcier	3/28
Katie Schmidt	3/21	Jack Miller	3/28
KaiAnne VanHorne	3/21	Myrna Petersen	3/28
Lisa Abresch	3/22	Thomas Elletson	3/29
Howard Bremmer	3/22	Ethan Ellis	3/29
Erik Corey	3/22	Eric Fouquette	3/29
Jenna Huikko	3/22	Ethel Kruschke	3/29
Jane Luoma	3/22	Lib Larson	3/29
LeighAnn Stoppelman	3/22	Brian Loberg	3/29
Shane Bertsch	3/24	Suzanne Meier	3/29
John Bremmer	3/24	Andy Miller	3/29
Mark Bremmer	3/24	Doris Neske	3/29
Paul Henning	3/24	Luke Zumbusch	3/29
Terri Kenmir	3/24	Benjamin Bonk	3/30
Andrew Klatt	3/24	Carol Cook	3/30
Abigail Hatling	3/25	Joan Danielson	3/30
Tricia Korbel	3/25	Kathy Klemz	3/30
Lori McLellan	3/25	Abby Mackenthun	3/30
Tami Pautzke	3/25	Eldon Peterson	3/30
Randolph Klatt	3/26	Sandy Schwartz	3/30
Amanda Stock	3/26	Meg Tschudi	3/31

Anniversaries



Steven S. & Roxanne Miller	3/5
Bill & Theresa Henson	3/9
Earl & Lue Graham	3/11
Jan & Lib Larson	3/16
Bill & Melissa Morris	3/20
Scott & Kathy Raasch	3/23
Ben & Toni Clifton	3/25

Annual Voters' Meeting Minutes—1/17/2010

Call to order: Wayne Rebischke

Open with prayer – Pastor Disney

Wayne reviewed Agenda and noted that there is a sign up sheet for coffee and an attendance sheet is going around that we would like you to sign.

Pastor's Reports:

Pastor Disney spoke on the Statistics for 2009 commenting that the attendance is down from the previous year but baptisms have stayed strong. There is concern over the Sat. night service. So they continue to work on improving the music and continue to make it the best service we can offer at that time. The time will probably change to 6:30 in the near future hopefully to attract more people. He shared some thoughts for 2010 mentioning there is a lot of competition with the other churches in town so we need to carve out a notch for ourselves to attract people in. One suggestion is to use a theme to identify ourselves such as "We Listen", when people ask what does our church do we can say we listen, we listen to God. Some denominations around us are not listening so much anymore but trying to adapt to the ways of the world as they see it so in contrast we can say we listen to God, we teach our children what he says, we listen and gather around his word and his sacraments. Pastor Disney said we need to try to bring more people into a more compassionate ministry bringing up the small group idea mentioned earlier in the year. One way would be to train a group of people to provide a prayer ministry. They could be available to listen and pray with the people on Sunday morning. There is a need to work on empowering more people to take possession of the workings of their church and the prayer ministry could be one project people could work on.

An event will take place on Feb 21 at 9:15AM called Create the Future it will be a time when everyone can learn just what the boards are about and maybe give suggestions or join a board or offer to handle just one project. The Pastor will work more on contacting infrequent attendees and help them feel like they are included in things and talk with new members on what might be of interest for them to do. Our radio broadcasts are very successful and so it might be a good idea to have two broadcasts. He suggested we ask the listeners

if they would like to receive our free newsletter and or if they would like to help provide the broadcast. Some of the items he touched on for the future would be more conversation on Stewardship and giving. The Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University will show people how to handle their finances, offering it twice a year, and he extended a thank you to Mark and Denise Saunders for heading this up. He emphasized greater volunteerism would be wonderful it is the whole idea of the future. People could take just one project and run with it. One project to think about would be to also have coffee out of the kitchenette by the Life Center. The website is a good opportunity for small groups or individuals with ideas. These are examples of what we can do as a person or forming a small group to handle these things. People have shown interest in Face book, children's concerts maybe for 3 year olds, a float that would knock your socks off in the Buffalo Days parade, a youth choir. These are just a few ideas so please circle the Feb 21st date. Thank you.

Pastor Bode spoke on what he has been doing this year, counseling, praying, prayer ministry and helping more people to become involved in this, Alpha (thank you to everyone for their support to this ministry), God uses this course in wonderful ways to change peoples lives, transformation!), teaching, visiting, preaching. He would like to see a free meal offered to the community, if you have suggestions or ideas he would be glad to listen. It would be a great way to reach out to the community where there seems to be a great need for something like this at this time.

Pastor Klemz had a written report with statistics and things he continues to do.
Youth & Family Ministry and Education

Kelly had a very full written report so she recapped her list by saying the numbers are growing and there is excitement. She said the important things are the one on one conversations showing that people care and feel invested. The board reevaluated things and are striving to do what they already have done but doing it even better. Time needs to be used wisely so they want to make sure the kids are offered quality things so they have something to build a foundation on their faith with. National Youth Convention fundraisers will kick

off Jan 31. Looking at things like VBS and continually, continually looking for volunteers, she would love even just an hour. It all adds up.
Approve Secretary's Reports

A motion to approve the Special Budget Meeting, Aug. 9, 2009 report and the Quarterly Voters Meeting Oct. 25, 2009 report was made by Ed Dilley and seconded by Carl Bowman. There was no discussion, motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report

There were no questions or comments. Roger Strege made a motion to accept report Dan Korbel seconded it. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report

A question was asked on what the total debt on the building was. The total loan was \$2,115,000.00 in Oct so a small amount has been taken off Janice M. did not have the exact amount. Bill Morris asked for an overview from Jim and Jim commented we were up as far as Nov. but Dec. found us about \$1500 down, as a whole we are ok in our cash balance. Looking at our plan going forward the budget was increased to cover Jackie's benefits. There were some items that had to be added in that are not there every year. Many pass through things like the stage, chairs', Alpha, Operation Christmas Child, fellowship items etc. do not increase the budget. Dan Korbel asked if there was an amount that the board could spend without the approval of the congregation. It was stated that there is a \$5000 amount that can be used. Dan felt it should be used for emergencies only. Dan made a motion to have the \$5000 stand and be used only for emergencies. Motion was seconded by Tim. Discussion followed. Karen commented that we need to remember that everyone is welcome to all the board meetings and could help make decisions. The motion required a show of hands 18 approved 31 were against, motion failed. A motion to accept the report was made by Tim and seconded by Earl D. Motion carried.

General Fund balance for fourth quarter

Contributions	\$113,150
Expense	(110,787)
Net Increase	2,363

Building Finance

Janice gave an overview of the final disbursements of our loan. We applied to convert our loan to permanent financing with LCEF. Janice made a motion to approve a Resolution authorizing St. John's to borrow money and mortgage real estate upon terms and condition by Synod. Motion was seconded by Bill Cook. Tim offered an alternative and will meet with

Janice to discuss this. Motion carried.

Elders

Roger had a printed report and commented that we did have 65 new members with 37 being removed.

Received during 4th Quarter: Emily Anderson, Tylix Feekes, Jennifer Haag, Jayde Hoppe, John Hoppe, Sarah Hoppe, Cole Lambrecht, Hanna Mahan, Megan Mahan, Ruth Mahan, Zach Mahan, Alayna Mills, Grayson Mills, Rebecca Mills, Ryan Mills, Caleb Mueller, Riley Ordoif, Dustin Schleif, Alexandra Schwartz, Myles Stachowski, Gerhard Ungaro, Mason Valley, Ivan Wachter, Mee Joo Wachter.

Removed during 4th Quarter: Marty Borhardt, Chuck Dahlheimer, Jack Groshens, Ruby Kuhlmann, Howard Linstrand, Lynn Ovaska, Madeline Ovaska.

These changes were approved as written. An Elder committee of Dan Green, Dave Haggerty, Glen Ross and Roger Strege will be doing a church audit along with Jim Chapa. Dan Korbel mentioned there should be a trustee on that committee. Roger will check the bylaws and do accordingly. There are also three Elders that their terms have expired and invitations have been extended to members to fill these positions.

New Business

Dan Korbel extended a thank you to the Trustees, the Bonks, and Rick Etzel for removing the snow at no charge to the church. Wayne also extended a thank you to Mina Loberg who, through her sister Meta Polansky's estate, donated the comfortable chairs we are sitting on and also extended a thank you to Fred Bonk for the snow removal. Carl would like to get the meeting packet a week early so that it too could be read like the treasurers report. It was commented that Jim had done a good job of getting the treasurers report out early. Wayne commented that we will try harder to have all the boards be able to report but time limited us. A full report can be picked up in the church office

Closing Prayer Pastor Bode

Motion was made by Bill to adjourn meeting, seconded by Clinton, motion carried, meeting adjourned by Wayne.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Olsen,
Board Secretary

The Church Board Meeting for February was cancelled.

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Return Service Requested

Bluegrass Concert p. 7
Dead Sea Scrolls Tour p. 9
Family Bowling p. 15
Lent Suppers p. 16
Feed My Starving Children p. 16