

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Helen Township, Minnesota

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

Dennis Reichow, Pastor (320) 864-3093

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First Sunday In Advent

November 28, 2010

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WELCOME *"O my strength, I watch for you; you, O God, are my fortress..."*(Psalm 59: 9) *Welcome to all in the name of our gracious God. May his blessings rest on you. If you are visiting with us today, we would enjoy the opportunity to get to know you. Please sign our guest book.*

Today's Theme: Watch! Be prepared for the Lord.

Thoughts for a Prayer Before Worship: Christ wants us all to be prepared for the moment when our time of grace on this earth comes to an end. Of greatest importance is that we finish our life here confidently trusting in him and his promise of salvation. Pray that the Lord strengthen you and keep you firm in the faith.

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Order of Worship: The Common Service (p. 15)

OPENING HYMN: 12 "Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"

Upper Grades "Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet"

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 146 (p. 120)

Lesson: Galatians 3: 15-29(Pew Bible p.1754)

Paul explains the covenant that God had made with Abraham. It was not a dictation of laws but a gracious word of promise, which gives hope to us all.

Lesson: Luke 1: 59-80 (Pew Bible p.1539)

The One who would prepare the way for the Lord, John(the Baptist) is born. His father Zechariah bursts into song remembering the promise God made to Abraham.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: 14 "Arise, O Christian People"

SERMON Genesis 15:1-7 (Pew Bible p.19)

"God Makes Preparations With Abram"

1. God's promise is connected to a place
2. God's promise points to a child among countless offspring

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: 28 "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

PRAYER

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: 21 v.1-3 "Hosanna to the Coming Lord"

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Organist: Ruth Lee

A MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

At worship, Sunday, November 21st: 74

At Thanksgiving Worship: 103

Attendance at weekly Bible Studies: 3

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRACTICE: *We will begin practicing our Children's Christmas Eve program **TODAY** Sunday, November 28th following Sunday School. We will practice from 11:15am –noon. More information will be sent home with the children. It will also be posted in the Sunday bulletins. If you have any questions or concerns you may speak with Pastor Reichow or Dennis Rabe.*

DOOR COLLECTION: *We will be having a door collection for the children's Christmas bags after worship on Sunday December 5th and 12th.*

THIS WEEK IF GOD WILLS

Today	9:00 am	Worship
	10:00am	Sunday School
	10:20am	Bible Class
	11:15am	Children's Christmas practice
Monday	7:00 pm	Sunday School Teachers Mtg.
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Table Talk
Wednesday	3:45 pm	5-6 Grade Catechism
	4:45 pm	7-8 Grade Catechism
	6:30 pm	Chimes
	7:30 pm	Choir
Saturday	9:00 am	Christmas Caroling
Sunday	9:00 am	Worship w/ Communion
	10:00am	Sunday School
	10:20am	Bible Class
	11:15am	Children's Christmas practice
	12:30pm	Ladies Aid Christmas Party

ST. JOHN'S LADIES AID is hosting its annual Christmas party next Sunday, December 5th beginning with a catered dinner at 12:30pm. An invitation has been extended to the entire congregation to celebrate the joy of Christmas with wonderful entertainment and fellowship together with your fellow Christians. Feel free to invite any friends and relatives as well. The cost of the meal is \$8.00 per person. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex for those planning to attend.

Today is the last day to sign up! We ask that everyone attending please bring a non-perishable food item for the McLeod County Food Shelf. We will also have a free-will offering for The Lutheran Home in Belle Plaine.

GENERAL FUND: Our General fund balance is in the red. Let the love of Christ rule in your hearts as you consider first fruit offerings, freely and generously given as a thank you to him.

THE THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE raised over 68 pounds of food for the McLeod County Food Shelf. Thank you to the Sunday School classes and teachers that participated.

YOUTH GROUP: Thank you to everyone who sold and purchased Pastry Puffins. We raised about \$450.00 with the profits from this fundraiser. The delivery date is Monday, December 6th. If you have any further questions you may speak to Gene Roush. Thank you so much for generous support!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: All members of the congregation are invited to come Christmas caroling to the nursing homes and shut-ins this Saturday, December 4th. We will meet here at church at 9am. A schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have any questions you may speak with Lonnie Rabe or Ruth Lange.

SERMONS FOR THE FUTURE: We continue our journey to Bethlehem in the shoes of another Old Testament family. Our trip this time provides an opportunity to look inside our own hearts. Come next week as we travel with Jacob and Rachel. In preparation, read Genesis 35: 11-20.

¹¹ And God said to him, "I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will come from your body." ¹² The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you." ¹³ Then God went up from him at the place where he had talked with him.

¹⁴ Jacob set up a stone pillar at the place where God had talked with him, and he poured out a drink offering on it; he also poured oil on it.

¹⁵ Jacob called the place where God had talked with him Bethel.

¹⁶ Then they moved on from Bethel. While they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. ¹⁷ And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, "Don't be afraid, for you have another son." ¹⁸ As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni. But his father named him Benjamin.

¹⁹ So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). ²⁰ Over her tomb Jacob set up a pillar, and to this day that pillar marks Rachel's tomb.