

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Helen Township, Minnesota

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

Dennis Reichow, Pastor (320) 864-3093

u u u u u u u u u u u

Last Sunday of End Time

November 20, 2011

u u u u u u u u u u u

WELCOME: *"I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, O Sovereign Lord; I will proclaim your righteousness, yours alone."* (Psalm 71:16) *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 before you leave and we'd love to have you join us again!*

Theme: Working together as lights in the Lord's kingdom.

Thoughts for a Prayer Before Worship: Long before Jesus commissioned his followers to make disciples of all nations, he told the Israelites that he was and is a light for all nations. Jesus wants all of us to shine with his light. Pray that he enables and equips you to be his light at all times.

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Order of Worship: Service of the Word (p. 38-adapted)

HYMN: 570 "O Christians, Haste"

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. *(spoken)*

RESPONSIVE READING

M: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

C: Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

M: Darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the people, for every inclination of the thoughts of the heart is only evil all the time.

C: And the soul that sins shall die.

M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

M: The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

C: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

M: Now in Christ Jesus we who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. He came and preached peace to us who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

C: For we are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of us who were baptized into Christ have clothed ourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.

M: He was slain, and with his blood he purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

C: He made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and we will reign on the earth.

M: I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

C: In Christ we are built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

M: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

C: We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.

Sing hymn 370 v. 4,5

**Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe On this terrestrial ball
To him all majesty ascribe And crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe And crown him Lord of all.**

**Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song And crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song And crown him Lord of all.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord of the harvest, inspire the hearts of many to offer themselves for the public ministry of your Church. Look with favor on our schools and missions, blessing those who teach the gospel and those who learn it, that many more may come to know you as the only true God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C: Amen.

Chimes: "Come, You Thankful People, Come"

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 133-134 (p. 115)

LESSON 2 Timothy 1:8-10, 2:1-2 (Pew Bible p. 1792)
Paul instructs Timothy to prepare a new generation of gospel proclaimers.

Choir: "Steal Away"

LESSON Matthew 28:16-20 (Pew Bible p. 1502)
Jesus commissions his followers to make disciples of all nations.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 572 "Send Forth, O Lord, to Every Place"

SERMON Isaiah 49:1-6 (Pew Bible p. 1106)
"Jesus Speaks To Me About My Light"
1. Jesus has become my light
2. Jesus is a light for the Gentiles

CREED

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: 559 Lord of the Living Harvest

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

C: Amen. Amen. Amen. (sung)

CLOSING HYMN: 214 v. 1 and 4 "Jerusalem, the Golden"

* * * * *

Organist: Christy Ittel

A MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

At worship, Sunday, November 13th: 79
Attendance at weekly Bible Studies: 19

FLOWERS: *The orange poinsettia in church today is given in memory of and thanksgiving for Taylor Lepel.*

ST. JOHN'S LADIES AID *is hosting its annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 4th beginning with a catered dinner at 12:00pm. All church members, your friends and relatives are invited. The cost of the meal is \$8.00 per person. Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex by November 27th.*

ALL CHURCH YOUTH *that play an instrument are invited to join in playing a few songs for our Christmas worship! Please see Pauline Schmidt for practice times and further information.*

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: *We are planning to go Christmas caroling on Saturday, December 3rd. All members are invited to join and spread the story and spirit of Christmas through song. If you have any questions or would like additional information you may speak with Pastor Reichow or Lonnie Rabe.*

THIS WEEK IF GOD WILLS

Today	9:00 am	Worship
	10:00am	Sunday School
	10:20am	Bible Class
	11:15 am	Leave for Water Park of America
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Table Talk
Wednesday	3:45 pm	Jr. Catechism
	4:45 pm	Sr. Catechism
Thursday	9:00 am	Thanksgiving Worship
Saturday	9:00 am	Christmas decorating
Sunday	9:00 am	Worship
	10:00am	Sunday School
	10:20am	Bible Class

CHRISTMAS DECORATING: *We will be decorating the church on Saturday, November 26th beginning at 9am. All members are encouraged to come and help.*

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRACTICE: *We will begin practicing our Children's Christmas Eve program **NEXT** Sunday, November 27th following Sunday School. Practice time run until noon for all our Sunday's in Advent. If you have any questions or concerns, speak with Pastor Reichow or Dennis Rabe.*

BUDGET UPDATE: *Our General Fund is still in the red and our Building Fund has dropped deeper in the red. Please remember this as you continue your walk with the Lord and consider offering your cheerful and willing gifts in service to him.*

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION MEETING *All confirmed congregation members are invited to participate in an informational meeting after worship on Sunday, Nov 27th. We will be discussing a proposed update to our church constitution and a change in our leadership structure. Then, we are planning to have another meeting on Dec 11th after worship to discuss further any items with this proposal and have a vote.*

JOB OPENINGS: *The custodian position and the secretary position are open! Please see one of our trustees or Tim Schuth for more information on either position.*

JCM NEWS: *We had our Thanksgiving gathering for Jesus Cares Ministry on Thursday evening with 29 participants. We had fifteen guests, eight caregivers and six St. John's members. We started the evening with a Thanksgiving picnic centered on the Bible miracle of Jesus feeding the 5,000. Judy did the Bible study of how Jesus turned a small basket of food into a meal for 5,000 -plus 12 baskets of food left over. So it is in our lives where we have more than enough of everything. All of our guests shared what they were thankful for this Thanksgiving. Joyce then led us in our craft which was making a Thanksgiving basket filled with blessings from God and instructing everyone to use it as their personal Thanksgiving centerpiece. We sang songs, celebrated birthdays and closed with the hymn NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD. Lunch was provided by our members with additional snacks from some of our guests. As pastor, I share a couple of my observations. I was unable to attend on Thursday evening as I had another commitment. A big THANK YOU goes to Elenora, Mavis, Barb, Joyce, Judy and Arvid for handling this event without me. We all would be delighted to see more congregation members help with this ministry. Second, I cannot help but notice the way God continues to grow this outreach effort of St. John's. I believe Henderson, Arlington, Gaylord, Glencoe, Hutchinson and Waconia were all represented on Thurs. Thanks be to God. Our **JCM Christmas program** will be held on **December 8th** at **7pm**. All congregation members are invited to attend.*

SERMONS FOR THE FUTURE: *Do you remember the meaning of the candles in the Advent Wreath? This year we will spend time reviewing their meanings. Come next week as we consider the first candle. In preparation read, Jeremiah 33:14-16.*

¹⁴ “‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

¹⁵ “‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land.
¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.’