

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (HELEN TWP.)

NEWSLETTER

July
2008

A Short Story that Speaks Volumes for Our Lives

Lessons from a Fig Tree

Jesus told this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near" (Luke 21:29-31).



The newspapers report a lot of bad news: war, robbery, murder, corruption, domestic abuse, even the abandoning of little babies. Life just seems to be one bad thing after another. Will there ever be an end to all this?

"Yes," Jesus says. In a short story that speaks volumes about life, Jesus teaches us about his coming on the last day.

Our loving God has put a schedule in place for this earth. Only God knows exactly when these things will take place. In his divine wisdom, though, God sometimes lets us know

when things are about to change. Jesus said when trees sprout leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, Jesus tells us when we see things such as wars, talks about wars, and earthquakes, we know his kingdom is near.

We can't just ignore the bad news, and we shouldn't. God doesn't want us to be afraid of these sad events. Rather, he wants us to look past them and see that they are signs that tell us Jesus is coming again. Just as the trees welcome the summer months, so believers will welcome their time with Jesus in heaven.

The second coming of Jesus will bring an end to all that is wrong with the world. It will be a day of final judgment. For those who reject Jesus, there will not be another chance to believe. There will be no escape. Christ is coming back once more and that will be the last day.

Those who trust in Jesus don't fear that day. Believers know that Jesus has forgiven them and promised them eternal life. They simply wait for him to come and take them to the paradise he has promised. They wait patiently and put up with the world's troubles, knowing that Jesus will change things forever someday.

The lessons from a fig tree tell us that Jesus is coming again and that life will be far better. Come and learn about all the wonderful things waiting for those who believe in Jesus.

CHURCH NEWS

Jesus Cares Picnic: The annual Jesus Cares Picnic will be held Tuesday, June 17th starting at 4:00pm at Oscar Olson Park. All congregation members are invited to attend or help with this event. Questions, contact Pastor Reichow.

Fundraising In July: There is a sign up sheet in the narthex to man the booth at the Coborn's cookout July 25th-27th turning brats and hot dogs. There are plenty of openings to serve in our congregation's endeavors so don't be shy! If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Litzau.

A Reminder To Save Your Aluminum Cans: Please remember to bring your cans to have them recycled. You can place them in the bin behind the shed at any time. The money earned from our aluminum cans will go towards computer equipment for the church.

Summer Bible School: Get ready for the special show at **THE BIBLE DISCOVERY MUSEUM**, our Bible School program for this summer. Join us on Sunday, July 27th through Thursday, July 31st from 6:15 to 8:30pm to discover some interesting artifacts from the Bible. Children ages 3 through adult are welcome and encouraged to join in the fun. Watch for registration forms in the narthex.

Teachers and helpers will meet on Monday, July 14th at 7:00pm to finalize plans.

Summer Bible School Snacks: We would appreciate help once again to provide snacks for our Summer Bible School. Healthy snacks would be great. The treats may be store bought or homemade. A sign up sheet will be in the narthex about mid-July. Thank you for your support.

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YOUTH NEWS

Youth Rally: Five of our youth; Jaime Mathwig, Katie Stockman, Alex Siewert, Stephanie Koepp and Brianna Lowden, along with two counselors, Lonnie Rabe and Althea Mathwig, will be going to the Regional Youth Rally in Wisconsin Dells

on July 17th-19th. "***Rise Up & Praise Him***" is the theme for the rally. Your generous support of our youth ministry program is always welcome and appreciated.

Youth Camping Trip: is scheduled for August 3rd-5th. Join us for the planning meeting on July 23rd at 7pm as we prepare for this fun event. Youth are welcome to invite a friend. Watch the bulletin for more details.

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LADIES AID

Members of the Ladies Aid are reminded of their meeting on Monday, August 4th at 6:30PM.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 st	Jennifer Koenen
7 th	Jeffrey Muchow, Blake Schmiege, & Jessica Wills
8 th	Michelle Goette and Theresa Siers Mike and Kelly Kettner (13 th Anniversary)
9 th	Darvin Scherer
11 th	Bruce Goette, Ashley Lowden, and Derek Ortloff
12 th	Jerome Ehlers Dave and Jael Schmiege (6 th Anniversary)
13 th	Mitchell Lowden
14 th	Ernie and Adeline Longhenry (63 rd Anniversary)
16 th	Emma Michaelis, Joyce Rund and William Rabe
19 th	John Glawe
20 th	John and Althea Mathwig (23 th Anniversary)
22 nd	Mariah Goette and Joshua Rabe Darvin and Jenny Scherer (8 th Anniversary)
23 rd	Daniel Dittmer and Robyn Siewert
26 th	Kenneth Ortloff
29 th	Barbara Heidemann and Ryan Schuth
30 th	Barton Brelje and Erica Garza
31 st	Sarah Garza