

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

NEWSLETTER

August
2008

A Short Story that Speaks Volumes for Our Lives

Keep Alert! Watch!

Jesus said, "Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back ... If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!' " (Mark 13:33-37)



It's a hot time of the year, so ice cream trucks are out. Maybe you've heard their familiar jingle coming down your street.

If you have young children, ice cream trucks pose a couple of challenges. First, you must watch for the truck in your neighborhood so you don't miss it and disappoint your kids. Second, you have to keep alert for the danger that the truck poses. If your child runs out into the street after an ice cream truck, the results could be deadly. Keep alert! Watch!

God also tells us to keep watch. Once Jesus told a story that explained the meaning of God's command to stay alert. He described a wealthy man heading away from his home on a journey. He has an order for the doorkeeper,

"Stay alert!" The man at the gate must keep watching because he doesn't know when the owner of the house will return.

In the same way, we don't know when Jesus will come back from heaven. When he does, he is going to welcome those who are prepared for him. How do we prepare for his return? The one thing that prepares us for Jesus is faith. And faith comes by hearing and learning the good news of the salvation that Jesus accomplished for us.

Jesus came to die for the sinful things we have done. If you saw a neighbor's child zooming heedlessly into the street, would you send your son into the street to get in the way of the oncoming ice cream truck—dooming your son, to save the other child?

What if that child had regularly disrespected you? Would you give up your own son for such a defiant one? God did. He had his holy Son die in place of those who have disobeyed him—all of us. When he successfully completed the work of salvation, Jesus returned to heaven. He promised that one day he will return to take all of his believers home with him.

Watch! Jesus is coming. To ignore his Word and live in unbelief will result in a horrid separation from God. Keep alert! Waiting for him in faith brings a luscious treat that couldn't be cooler or sweeter.

CHURCH NEWS

Summer Bible School: We have completed another successful week of Summer Bible School. We averaged 52.2 children per day and 8.4 adults per day for the adult Bible study. A huge thank you to our six teachers, to Missionary Flunker, to all the helpers (we averaged 11 per day), to the students who helped with our outreach efforts and to our bus driver, Darlene.

A special thank you to WELS Kingdom Workers. Through this organization our congregation has been blessed with Rodrigo Concha to do outreach and follow-up work. Our local New Ulm chapter has made it possible for Missionary Tim Flunker to help with our outreach efforts and for students, Abram Degner and John Raasch, to do some canvassing in the community. Also, our local chapter organized volunteers to help us throughout the week. Here are the people that came to help us: Jerry & LaVonne Bentz, Connie & Danica Scharf, Linda Wellmann, Herb & Joanne Wolff, Don Sutton, Kirstin Luepke, Karen Grunwald and Kara Wilfraht.

The Wish List Team has published their list of initial items in 2 identical Wish List ring binders. These binders are located in the meeting room on the book shelf. Congregation members are encouraged to look through these Wish List binders or you can check one out if you would like to take it home. Please check one out on the sheet on the book shelf and return it back to church as soon as you're done with it.

The Wish List Team is always looking for new suggestions to include in the binders. If you have an idea of something to be included on the Wish List, please contact a team member. Please note: if you interested in purchasing an item on the Wish List, please contact a Wish List Team member or a Trustee beforehand to prevent duplications.

Fundraising: A heartfelt thank you to all of you who generously gave of your time again to work at the Coborn's Cookout this year. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the final numbers. **THANK YOU AGAIN!**

A Reminder To Save Your Aluminum Cans: Clean out your stash and 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.

Church Basement Ladies II: A second helping of this Delightfully funny play is now showing at the Plymouth Playhouse. We will be going on Sunday, September 7th for the 6pm showing. We will meet here at church at 3pm for a light lunch. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please sign up in the narthex by August 25th. Tickets should run approximately \$24 each (depending on the number of people attending).

Sunday School: As we get past the middle of August, we once again focus our attention on the start of Sunday School on September 7th. If you have any concerns, ideas or are interested in helping with Sunday School, please speak to Pastor Reichow.

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YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group Outings: The youth group will be camping at Schroeder Park near Annandale, MN on August 3rd. All 5th grade through High School students are encouraged to come and invite a friend. Parents with younger children are also invited to come and enjoy the great outdoors and fellowship. Be sure to ask them about their trip when they return on August 5th.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 nd	Ronald and Suzanne Schuth (17 th Anniversary)
3 rd	Shay Goette and Benjamin Schuth
4 th	David Schmieg
5 th	Werner and Arleen Schmidt (52 nd Anniversary)
10 th	Carolyn Lange
11 th	Kenneth and Pearl Ortloff (51 st Anniversary)
13 th	Taylor Schmieg Loren and Darlene Mackenthun (42 nd Anniversary)
16 th	Jared Mathwig
18 th	Jennifer Scherer and Jonah Scherer
22 nd	Dennis Rabe
23 rd	Roger Schuth
24 th	Marshall Dammann
25 th	Nathan Litzau
26 th	Bruce and Donna Goette (38 th Anniversary) Matt and Jennifer Davidson (2 nd Anniversary)
27 th	Keith Hardel and Laurie Litzau
28 th	Mike Kettner Roger and Cindy Schuth (32 nd Anniversary)
29 th	Helen Milbrand Gene and Leah Roush (16 th Anniversary)