

# NEWSLETTER

October  
2008

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*A Short Story that Speaks Volumes for Our Lives*

## Searching For What Was Lost

Jesus told this parable, "Suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:8-10).



My wife works with a lady who buys her lottery tickets every now and then. One day, a rumor spread that our local grocery store sold a \$100,000 ticket. We both thought, "Are we winners?" How would we spend it? Then I said, "Honey, where's the ticket?" After a brief panic, and a 20 minute search of the house, we found it. The ticket was a loser.

When we lose something that we hold to be valuable, we search for it frantically. That's what Jesus described in this short story about a woman searching for a coin that she lost. Without Jesus you and I are like that lost coin. Our lustful thoughts, hurting words, and loveless deeds – everything we think, say, or do that fails to be

perfect – are sins that separate us from God. How frightening to be lost in sin!

Thankfully, though, there is good news! Jesus came "to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10). God sent Jesus to find us and reconnect us to God. Jesus did that by loving us so much that he paid for all our sins by his death on the cross. That's how much Jesus loves us!

Jesus searches for us and finds us. The angels in heaven rejoice! Jesus comes to us through his Word and takes away our fear by comforting us with the forgiveness of sins. He assures us that he has made us dearly loved children of God. Through Jesus, heaven is our inheritance.

God loves us so much that he stopped at nothing to find us and save us from eternal separation from him in hell. Through Jesus, we have the gift of eternal life, which is a whole lot more valuable than winning the lottery. How fortunate we are! We will never be lost again when we cling in faith to Jesus, our Savior.

Come and share with us the love of Jesus. Like heaven's angels, we can rejoice over all that Jesus did to find us and give us life with God.

## CHURCH NEWS

**Jesus Cares Bible Class** We are continuing our ministry to people with developmental disabilities. Bible class is scheduled here at church on Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30PM. Congregation members are welcome to attend.

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## HARVEST PARTY

Pumpkins, Pumpkins, Pumpkins! That is the theme for this year's Congregational Fall Harvest Party. The party will be held Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> here at church beginning at 7:00 pm. People are encouraged to come in costume with judging beginning at 7:30. We also will be having a Pumpkin Recipe Bake-off, a Pumpkin Decorating/Carving Contest and hayrides. An evening of activities and games has been planned for young and old.

Anyone who would like to bring a snack is welcome to do so. We have placed pumpkins on the bulletin board with snack ideas. You may remove the pumpkin with the snack suggestion you would like to provide for the party. Otherwise, you are welcome to bring your own favorite snacks. We also appreciate cash donations to help with the cost of supplies. There is a basket in the narthex. Thank you so much for your help.

If you plan on attending, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex as soon as possible so we can purchase the necessary amount of supplies in time for the party. Please keep in mind that we greatly depend on the numbers provided by those who sign-up. If you are, for some reason, unable to attend after signing up, please let Pauline Schmidt know a.s.a.p. More details about the Harvest Party are available on the insert in this month's Newsletter, as well as the Sunday bulletins. Information is also posted on the "St. John's Happenings" bulletin board by the stairs.

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## FUNDRAISING EVENT

Our church will once again have a craft and bake sale booth at the Panther Field House on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Notice is being made now so you can prepare and plan your specialty items for this sale. We will need volunteers to help with set up on the Friday evening before as well as people to man the booth on Saturday from 9:00 am-3:00 pm.

Watch for the all famous 'sign-up sheet' in the narthex. In the past, this event has been quite profitable. Let's make that happen again! Laurie Litzau (864-4437) can answer any questions.

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## LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid will meet on Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. All ladies are encouraged to be present, as we will be electing new officers. New members are always welcome. See you there!

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## YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group parents and members would like to thank Dennis and Lonnie Rabe for their years of service. We appreciate all your hard work and time. Thank you!

Youth Group is selling Butter Braids. There is an order form in the narthex. We will be taking orders now through November 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have any questions you may speak with Gene Roush or Alex Siewert. Thank you for your support.

Our next meeting will be held Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm. Any new ideas are always welcome, so bring them too! See you there!

### *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

2 <sup>nd</sup>	LeRoy and Elvera Brelje (51 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary) Zachary Muchow and Brian Stockman
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sharon Glawe
4 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis and Lonnie Rabe (33 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary) Kristina Roush
5 <sup>th</sup>	Earl and Kathy Stuedemann (45 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
8 <sup>th</sup>	Kathy Stuedemann
9 <sup>th</sup>	Mark Raddatz
10 <sup>th</sup>	Ernie and Ruth Brinkman (62 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary) Dennis Dittmer
14 <sup>th</sup>	Beverly Schuth, David Graupmann and Samatha Roush
16 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff and April Muchow (4 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
17 <sup>th</sup>	Rudy Witthus
20 <sup>th</sup>	David Stuedemann
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Michael and Brenda Stockman (25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Evelyn Michaelis and Ronald Schuth
25 <sup>th</sup>	Adeline Longhenry
27 <sup>th</sup>	Christopher Ross
28 <sup>th</sup>	Earl Schuth
29 <sup>th</sup>	Larry Litzau
30 <sup>th</sup>	Howard and Diane Dittmer (53 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary) Jon and Denise Ortloff (15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)