

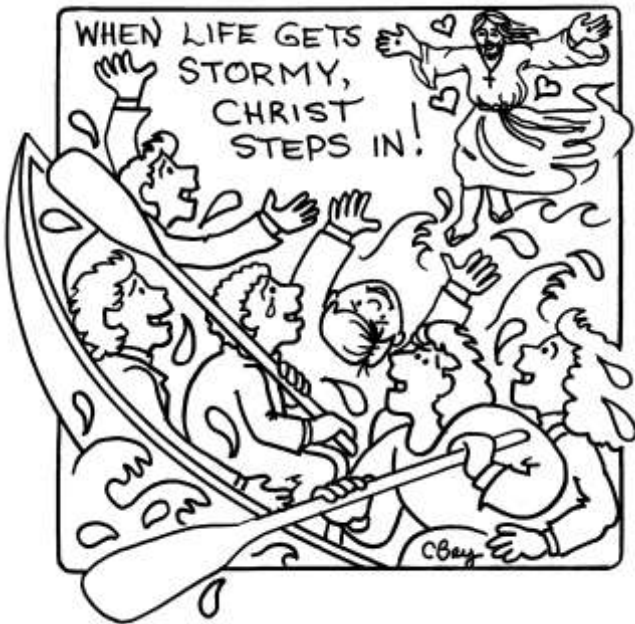
NEWSLETTER

February
2009

Jesus is Miraculous

He Stills the Storms

"Master, Master, we're going to drown!" Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm (Luke 8:24).



I've been there and so have you: knee-deep in a sea of trouble. Not the kind of trouble like the car breaking down. No, I mean the kind of trouble that immediately forms a pit in your stomach and presses you down with guilt and shame. You get caught. You hurt feelings. You lost a friend. You lose a spouse. These aren't the kinds of trouble that just go away. These are the things that keep you up at night. Our bodies may be weary from a stress-filled day, but our brains are all too eager to catalog the day's mistakes. These are what might be called the storms of life.

The disciples faced a real storm one day out on the Sea of Galilee. They didn't know what to do. They didn't know how they were going to survive. They were knee-deep in a sea of trouble, and getting deeper. **"Master, Master, we're going to drown."** Now, I suppose that Jesus could have ignored them. Chances are they would have made it through. But Jesus never ignores the ones he loves. In fact, as you go through the Bible's list of Jesus' miracles, you'll notice that we never have a report of Jesus refusing to help.

And that is so true for us. The storms of life come. The waves of guilt wash over us, and we feel like we're going to drown. But the Lord comes to our aid. "Be still!" He calms our fears. "Be still!" He takes away our guilt. "Be still!" And the storm subsides.

The greatest storm we face is the storm of sin. But even that terrible squall is no match for the rebuke of Jesus. With one act, Jesus did away with sin and guilt forever. He died on a cross, and his death paid the price for our sins. Jesus got up on that cross and his death rebuked the storm of sin, and it went away.

Knee-deep in trouble? I've been there; so have you. But Jesus rescued us. His miracle of calming the storm reminds us of how he calms our greatest storms. It's something to celebrate. It's something worth finding out more about.

CHURCH NEWS

Lenten Worship Lenten worship will be held at Millie Beneke Manor in Glencoe at 2PM on Wednesdays and our regular mid-week Lenten service will be at church at 7:00PM. The theme for our Lenten and Holy Week series this year is "Father, Forgive Them". There were many who needed Christ's prayers for forgiveness from the cross – the disciples, the Sanhedrin, Pontius Pilate, the mob in Pilate's court, the soldiers, the women of Jerusalem and others. By considering their behaviors, we gain insights into our own shortcomings and receive warnings about the temptations that abound as we try to live lives of repentance.

Father, Forgive Them

February 25: Forgive Our Fearful Lack of Trust!
(The Disciples in the Garden)

Lenten Suppers will be served before each service again this year. Food will be served from 5:45 – 6:45PM. Free-will donations will be accepted with supplemental funds available through Thrivent. We ask that everyone attending please sign the sign-up sheet each week and indicate if you are a Thrivent member or not. By signing, it makes record keeping easier for our local chapter and the Thrivent organization gets additional recognition. We appreciate your support for our church groups, our building fund, and our Thrivent organization. The serving schedule will be posted following our planning meeting. You may also check the Sunday bulletins. Come and fill up your stomach ahead of the service with a meal and then stay for worship to fill up your soul. See you there!

Jesus Cares Bible Class We continue our ministry to people with developmental disabilities. Bible class is scheduled here at church on Thursday, February 19th at 6:30PM. Members of the congregation are welcome to come and join in this ministry.

Glencoe Expo Plans are being made for our church booth at the Glencoe Expo this year, February 14th – 15th. Volunteers are needed to help construct our display and to man our booth. We will be meeting Thursday, February 5th for the construction process. A sign-up sheet is in the

narthex for workers at the booth during the expo. Thanks for all your help.

Supporting the Synod through Searching Please consider using GoodSearch as your on-line search engine. By using this search engine (www.goodsearch.com) and selecting WELS as your charity, one cent per search will be donated to the synod.

Ladies Aid News: The ladies aid would like to thank everyone who purchased Christmas cards and napkins during the Christmas season. The proceeds from the sales help support the Ladies Aid donations to various missions. Campbell soup labels are still being collected. Thanks to everyone for your support.

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YOUTH NEWS

Papa Murphy's Take-n-Bake Pizza: There is an order form in the narthex for anyone who would like to order Papa Murphy's Take-n-Bake pizzas. The deadline for ordering is February 22nd. We are expecting the pizzas to be here for pick-up on Sunday, March 1st. If you have questions, you may speak with Gene Roush. Please support our youth through their fund-raising events. Your generous support is greatly appreciated – Thank You!

Youth Rally Members of our youth are encouraged to attend the Youth Rally in Iowa this summer. The theme this year is *Follow the Path, Lead the Way!* More information can be found at www.welsyouthrally.net. Registration information must be completed by the end of February.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 16th at 6:30.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st	Jon Ortloff and Rachel Reichow
4 th	Mitchell Kettner
14 th	Mark Schuth Aaron and Michelle Goette (17 th Anniversary)
15 th	Paul and Christy Ittel (12 th Anniversary)
19 th	Eleanor Litzau
21st	Ernie and Evelyn Michaelis (50 th Anniversary)
24 th	Richard Michaelis and Vanessa Willmsen
26 th	Arleen Schmidt
28 th	LeRoy Brelje