

NEWSLETTER

May
2009

Jesus is Miraculous

He Calms Our Fears

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"... Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him (Luke 5:8,10,11).



Simon Peter and his friends were fishermen when they first knew Jesus. After a long night of catching nothing, they were ready to call it quits. But Jesus told them to put out their nets in the deep water. It was now the hottest and brightest part of the day. A catch of fish seemed even less likely at this point.

The miraculous catch Jesus gave them ripped their nets and caused their boats to sink! Immediately, Peter realized that this wasn't just another teacher, but the Son of God. When Peter saw God's power that day, he was filled with fear. More than ever, he felt the big difference between

God and himself. He was a sinner and God was not. He was entirely at God's mercy.

Maybe it was a huge thunderstorm or the power of crashing waves that first made you realize how big God is and how small you are. When we see the awesome wonders of God in this world, sometimes we feel the same way Peter did. Sometimes we conclude that we need to distance ourselves from God because of our sin. He is perfect and we are not. The Bible tells us that God has every right to punish us for all of eternity because of our sin. All of this strikes fear in our hearts. Jesus' powerful miracles had this same effect on people. But at the same time, his miracles draw our attention to an important fact about our powerful God: he is here to save us. Jesus calms our fears.

Jesus told Peter, "Do not be afraid..." As God's Son, he wasn't there to harm Peter. He was there to save him, and that is just what he did when he died on the cross and rose again. Jesus' words calm our fears as sinners before a holy God. Now, we don't need to cry, "Away from me, Lord, for I am a sinner!" Instead, in the peace of his forgiveness, we can take the time to set down the nets of our daily work and follow him to something greater in his Word.

What does it mean to be a fisher of men? Come and find out. We would love to share that hope with you.

CHURCH NEWS

Year of Jubilee Our synod-wide Year of Jubilee celebration will wrap up this summer. Jesus paid the debt for our sin and won the victory over death. With him we now have life. Thanks be to God for the victory he has given to us! You again have an opportunity to give gifts of thanksgiving through the special Year of Jubilee offering. Enclose your gift in an envelope found in the narthex and drop it in the collection plate.

Members are encouraged to consider giving a gift during the month of May. Gifts collected through this special offering will go toward retiring debt – half to our church addition debt and half to our synod for paying down debt. Thank you for your generous support!

Jesus Cares Bible Class Our ministry to people with developmental disabilities meets every 3 weeks. Our next event is the simplified worship service on May 20th. Participants will gather at church at 6:30PM prior to worship.

Mid-week Ascension Service Join us on Wednesday, May 20th for a shortened, simplified worship service celebrating our Lord's Ascension. All members are encouraged to participate and enjoy some fellowship time with our Jesus Cares friends.

Sunday School All parents of Sunday school children are invited to attend an Awards Ceremony at 11:00 am on Sunday, May 17th. There will also be a picnic lunch to follow. Please watch the Sunday bulletins for more details.

Thank You We are finishing another Sunday School year in May. We give a big "thank you" to the Sunday School staff (Alex Seiwert, Pauline Schmidt, Althea Mathwig, Teresa Ross, Kathy Stuedeman) for their dedicated and faithful service. We thank the substitute teachers (John Ross, Lonnie Rabe, Leah Roush, and Jennifer Siewert) for their help and willingness to serve. We also thank Heather Schulz and Jenny Scherer for their dedicated service with our "Jesus and Me" program. Thank you to the spouses of these staff members and any others who gave their direct support, encouragement, and help to our staff members.

Let's remember that the Lord has given all of us the responsibility to minister to these precious "little ones" with his Word.

Wish List Binders have been updated. Anyone who would like to make to a donation is asked to please speak with a member of the Wish List Team. The Council must be informed prior to the purchase of an item. The binders can be found in the meeting room on the book shelf. For your convenience you may sign them out and take them home with you.

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SUMMER BIBLE SCHOOL

Summer Bible School will be held Sunday through Thursday, August 2nd – 6th from 6:30 to 8:30PM. Children age 3 through adults are welcome and encouraged to participate. Please plan your summer family events accordingly.

We will be having a meeting on Sunday, May 3rd to discuss and plan this year's Summer Bible School program. All interested teachers, helpers and especially parents are asked to attend and give their input and be a part of the planning process. Helpers will be available to watch the children on the playground during this meeting.

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YOUTH NEWS

Ditch clean-up is scheduled for Sunday, May 3rd. We will meet here at church by 3:30pm. All members of the congregation are welcome to help with this project.

Our last meeting will be held on Monday, May 18th at 6:30pm.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 nd	Helen Luehrs
4 th	Matthew Davidson
5 th	Kelly Kettner
9 th	April Muchow John and Sharon Glawe (50 th Anniversary) Larry and Eleanor Litzau (39 th Anniversary)
10 th	Jacob Reichow
14 th	Tyler Koepp and Amber Schmidt
17 th	Christy Ittel
19 th	Jakob Siewert
21 st	Aaron Goette
21 st	Ava Koenen
22 nd	Melvin and Adeline Litzau (63 rd Anniversary)
23 rd	Earl and Beverly Schuth (50 th Anniversary)
27 th	Bertha Milbrand, Ernie Longhenry, Jamin Goette, Tony Roush and David Von Berge
31 st	Jodi Lange