

NEWSLETTER

September
2009

Jesus is Miraculous

He Controls the Wind

Jesus saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed (Mark 6:48-51).



It's not that hard to put ourselves in the disciples' place as they strained at the oars fighting against the wind, is it? They had been rowing hard since evening, and now it was in the morning hours just before sunrise. Their muscles were aching. They must have been exhausted, but they still hadn't managed to get across the lake. All that work with so little to show for it.

Here we are at the end of summer. For many of us, summers bring a little bit of rest and relaxation. It's time for vacations and family, home projects, and summer fun. But now that's over. Back to school and back to deadlines. How often doesn't it feel like we too are just straining

against the oars, getting nowhere because the wind is against us? We finish our daily lists of things to do, only to discover a whole new list for tomorrow. We finish one assignment and the teacher gives us another. We strain at the oars with the wind against us.

Now, we'll never know how long the disciples in that boat could have kept rowing or if they would have reached their destination on their own. They didn't have to. Jesus saw them hopelessly working and getting nowhere. He walked right across the water, comforted their fears, stepped into the boat, and the wind completely faded away. Jesus had the power to do the impossible and help his friends.

It reminds me of my faith. There I was in the middle of a stormy life, trying to "get things right" and always being knocked back by sin and temptation. Then Jesus came in his Word and in baptism, stepped into my life, and my sin just faded away. He removed it by his work and his love.

And that amazes me, just as it amazed the disciples. I may fight against the wind every day at work or at school, but I know that with God I've got smooth sailing. Smooth because Jesus has the miraculous power not just to control the wind or walk on water, but also to save my soul. And that's completely amazing.

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, September 10th at 6:30pm. Members of the congregation are welcome to come and join in this ministry.

Chimes and Choir: We thank the Lord for the opportunity and ability to glorify him with music from these two special groups. Practice for choir begins on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:30pm. Please note that chimes will not begin practice until Wednesday, September 16th at 6:30pm. *New-comers are always welcome to join either group!* Please speak to Jenny Scherer for chimes or Lonnie Rabe for choir if you are interested. Let's make some beautiful music!

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.

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JESUS & ME CLASS

Jesus and Me class is designed for children under the age of 4 as an introduction to Sunday School. Parents and children interact together as they hear from God's Word and do a related craft project/activity sheet. All parents with young children are invited to attend. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more details.

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CATECHISM INSTRUCTION

Parents of 5th - 8th grade students are reminded that Catechism instruction begins on September 9th. The 5th and 6th grade students will meet at 3:45 PM to 4:45 PM on Wednesdays, followed by the 7th - 8th graders meeting at 4:45 PM to 6:15 PM.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 13th. Classes will be held after worship on Sundays beginning at 10:15 am. Children, age

4 through 8th grade, are to be a part of this program. This year's theme is: *"The Lord Is the Rock of Our Salvation"* We will kick off our Sunday School program with an Open House for parents and children from 10:15-10:40. We will have juice and snacks, a chance to meet the teachers, a video and our Sunday School families will receive information on the mission projects for this year.

Also, your presence in worship will be a great encouragement to your brothers and sisters in Christ. See you on the 13th!! If any parents have questions concerning Sunday School, please speak with Pastor Reichow.

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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 September 27th. We are expecting the pizzas to be here for pick-up on Sunday, October 4th. (Just in time for the Vikings/Packers showdown!) 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!

Our next meeting will be held Monday, September 21st.

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 nd	Arvid and Judy Schwartz (48 th Anniversary)
4 th	Keith Schmidt
7 th	Loren Mackenthun and Delbert Heidemann
11 th	Sharon Papke and Chad Koenen
14 th	Elvera Brelje and Kris Siers Kenwood and Joyce Rund (46 th Anniversary)
15 th	Alison Kettner
17 th	Nora Albers and Pearl Ortloff
19 th	Kayla Reichow Earl and Carolyn Lange (39 th Anniversary)
20 th	Ernie Michaelis
21 st	Lonnie Rabe
24 th	Ruth Lange
26 th	Donna Goette and Stephanie Koepp
28 th	Daniel Dammann
29 th	Janet Schuth
30 th	Rebecca Sullivan