

NEWSLETTER

October
2009

Jesus is Miraculous

He Gives Sight to the Blind

The crowd rebuked the two blind men and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"... Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him (Matthew 20:31,34).



They were sitting by the side of the road, these two blind men. Perhaps they heard children laughing, but wished to see their faces. They felt the gentle warmth of the setting sun, but wished to take in the colors. They wanted to *see*. Today, someone was coming. Help, at last! They cried out eagerly. "Be quiet!" shouted the heartless crowd.

We are all like these two blind men. We endure afflictions that make our lives harder, whether it is conflict in a relationship, troubles at work, a health woe, or a flaw in our personality that we wish we could get rid of. Our nagging burdens never seem to leave us alone. And people add salt to our wounds. They speak cruel words or are harsh with indifference. Even the dearest

people in our lives do not always understand the personal struggles we endure. So we can feel like we're all alone.

Then, out of the darkness of our sufferings, comes a gentle touch. It's the touch of Jesus, a touch of compassion. For he too has cried and sighed in this world. He knows what we are going through. But Jesus' touch does more than console. It heals. He simply touched the eyes of those two blind men, and they could instantly see. A miracle!

Likewise, Jesus touches us with God's truth. He helps us see that our daily afflictions come from our *root* affliction—that we are sinners living in a sinful world. We are sinners estranged from our God; sinners blinded to the way of being acceptable to God. By the power of his Word, Jesus removes spiritual blindness. He opens our eyes to see him as our Savior whose innocent death for us took away our pitch-black fear of the grave. He opens up our mind's eye to understand the purpose of his coming and dying on the cross. He bore the guilt of our sins and restored our relationship with God. Then he miraculously rose from the dead to prove that we are forgiven and to give us the sure hope of eternal life.

Behold the precious sight. Jesus is our Savior! With wide open eyes of faith, we gladly follow him, confident that the miraculous Jesus will carry us through good times and bad and finally bring us by his grace into God's eternal heaven.

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 1st and 22nd at 6:30PM. Congregation members are welcome to attend. JESUS CARES MINISTRY has started a new year. We had a great turnout with 27 people--6 St. John's members, 15 developmentally disabled adults and children, and 6 caregivers coming from Glencoe, Arlington, Hutchinson, and Henderson. St John's is privileged to have this ministry for our community to those who are blessed differently, but who are still claimed by a loving God as His children. With the wonderful turnout, there is still a need for additional help. If you are willing to spend about 2 ½ hours every third Thursday with this special ministry, please speak to Arvid & Judy Schwartz, Eleanora Hardel, Joyce Koepp, Barb Heidemann, Mavis Graupmann, or Pastor Reichow. There is a guarantee that you will go home feeling better than when you arrived.

Do you have a vehicle you no longer want or need? Please consider donating it to the Lutheran Home Association to support its Jesus Cares Ministry, a gospel outreach program for individuals with developmental disabilities. Your donated vehicle will be sold and the proceeds will be used to fund JCM or used in services that require transportation. Drivable vehicles in good running condition, with no maximum mileage limit, are accepted. For more information, e-mail info@tlha.org or call toll free 1-888-600-TLHA (8542).

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HARVEST PARTY

This year's Congregational Fall Harvest Party will be held Friday, October 30th here at church beginning at 6:00 pm. People are encouraged to come in costume with judging beginning at 6:30. We also will be having a Cinnamon Recipe Bake-off, a Pumpkin Decorating/Carving Contest and hayrides. Ladies Aid will also be hosting a light dinner. An evening of activities and games has been planned for young and old.

All members are encouraged to invite family, friends and neighbors. Flyers with all the information your invited guests need will be

available. If you plan on attending, please sign up using the clipboard on the bulletin 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

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LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid will meet on Monday, October 5th 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

Our next meeting will be held Monday, October 19th, at 6:30pm. Any new ideas are always welcome, so bring them too! See you there!

Thank you to everyone who purchased pizzas from the Papa Murphy's fundraiser. Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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| 2 nd | LeRoy and Elvera Brelje (52 nd Anniversary) Zachary Muchow and Brian Stockman |
| 3 rd | Sharon Glawe |
| 4 th | Dennis and Lonnie Rabe (34 th Anniversary) Kristina Roush |
| 5 th | Earl and Kathy Stuedemann (46 th Anniversary) |
| 8 th | Kathy Stuedemann |
| 9 th | Mark Raddatz |
| 10 th | Ernie and Ruth Brinkman (63 rd Anniversary) Dennis Dittmer |
| 14 th | Beverly Schuth, David Graupmann and Sam Roush |
| 16 th | Jeff and April Muchow (5 th Anniversary) |
| 17 th | Rudy Witthus |
| 20 th | David Stuedemann |
| 22 nd | Michael and Brenda Stockman (26 th Anniversary) |
| 23 rd | Evelyn Michaelis and Ronald Schuth |
| 25 th | Adeline Longhenry |
| 27 th | Alexis Muchow and Christopher Ross |
| 28 th | Earl Schuth |
| 29 th | Larry Litzau |
| 30 th | Howard and Diane Dittmer (54 th Anniversary) Jon and Denise Ortloff (16 th Anniversary) |