

NEWSLETTER

October
2010

How can I be happy when people attack me for doing the right thing?

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness."
Matthew 5:10*



Parents who won't let their teenage daughter go to R-rated movies might not win a "Favorite Parent" contest with their daughter's classmates because they seem too restrictive. They are only trying to look out for the welfare of their daughter. A factory employee working at a fast pace may get a talking to by others on the job. He might hear, "Stop working so hard. You're making the rest of us look bad." He's only trying to be a faithful worker and do his best. A freshman in high school has spent hours studying for the science test. Some of his classmates know that he'll do well on the test, so they ask him to let them copy his answers. He tells them "no." Those same

classmates begin to make life miserable for him. He was only trying to be honest and not help others cheat.

Can any of these people be happy that they did the right thing? Is there any happiness in being looked at differently or having a reputation ruined? Wouldn't it be better to do things that won't cause conflict? It may surprise you, but Jesus says that people can have joy in their hearts for doing the right thing. *"Blessed (happy) are those who are persecuted because of righteousness (doing the right thing), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* (Matthew 5:10).

Jesus knew that it isn't always easy to do the right thing. But with these words Jesus is talking to people who know him. They know who he is. They know he is God who came as the Savior to forgive their failures and guarantee a place in heaven for them.

People who know and trust in Jesus want to do the right thing. They want to be parents who look out for their child's well-being. They want to use their talents and abilities as best they can. They want to live honestly. They do this even if they are attacked for doing the right thing. In the way they live, they want to thank Jesus because he's promised them the gift of heaven.

Be happy knowing that there is someplace better waiting for you. It's a place where there is no backbiting or peer pressure. It's the place called heaven. Jesus promised it.

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 7th at 6:30PM. St John's is privileged to have this ministry for our community to those who are blessed differently. We could use 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 Koepf, Barb Heidemann, Mavis Graupmann, or Pastor Reichow. There is a guarantee that you will go home feeling better than when you arrived.

Harvest Party This year's Congregational Fall Harvest Party will be held Friday, October 29th here at church beginning at 6:00 pm. 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 soon. Further details will be posted in the Sunday bulletins.

Designating Thrivent Choice Dollars Info about designating Choice Dollars has been mailed out to Thrivent members. Follow the instructions in that letter on how to designate your Choice Dollars. When you do so, you will be asked to "agree" to the terms of the Choice Dollars program, which means you will need to accept the terms before you can designate your Choice Dollars. (To get a copy of the terms, contact a Thrivent advocate – Dennis & Lonnie Rabe, Kathy Stuedemann, or Carol Dammann). You can designate St. John's as the recipient and your Choice Dollars will be sent to our church. If you would like your Choice Dollars to go to a specific group or fund within our church, please contact an advocate to let them know where to direct your gift. The use of unspecified dollars will be determined by our advocates and church leaders.

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LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid will meet on Monday, October 4th 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!

We are sponsoring a tour of The Lutheran Home and the Kingsway Retirement Home in Belle Plaine on Saturday, October 9th. All church members are invited to join us that day. We will meet at church at 9am to carpool. Lunch will be purchased at the Retirement Home. We may also stop at the thrift store in Belle Plaine.

The Ladies Aid will be observing their 60th anniversary. In commemoration of the anniversary, there will be a special service on Sunday, October 17. Coffee and donuts will be served following the service.

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YOUTH GROUP

Our next meeting will be held Sunday, October 10th immediately following Sunday School. We will be having a pizza party and then we will head out to clean up ditches. *There is a sign up sheet on the table in the narthex for anyone helping with ditch clean-up.*

We are looking for ideas to help us with our fundraising efforts. If any youth members, parents or fellow congregation members have any ideas, please speak to Gene Roush. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 nd	Zachary Muchow and Brian Stockman
3 rd	Sharon Glawe
4 th	Dennis and Lonnie Rabe (35 th Anniversary) Kristina Roush
5 th	Earl and Kathy Stuedemann (47 th Anniversary)
8 th	Kathy Stuedemann
9 th	Mark Raddatz
10 th	Ernie and Ruth Brinkman (64 th Anniversary) Dennis Dittmer
11 th	David and Vanessa Willmsen (2 nd Anniversary)
14 th	Beverly Schuth, David Graupmann and Sam Roush
16 th	Jeff and April Muchow (6 th Anniversary)
17 th	Rudy Witthus
20 th	David Stuedemann
22 nd	Michael and Brenda Stockman (27 th Anniversary) Emma Schmiegel
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 (55 th Anniversary) Jon and Denise Orloff (17 th Anniversary)