

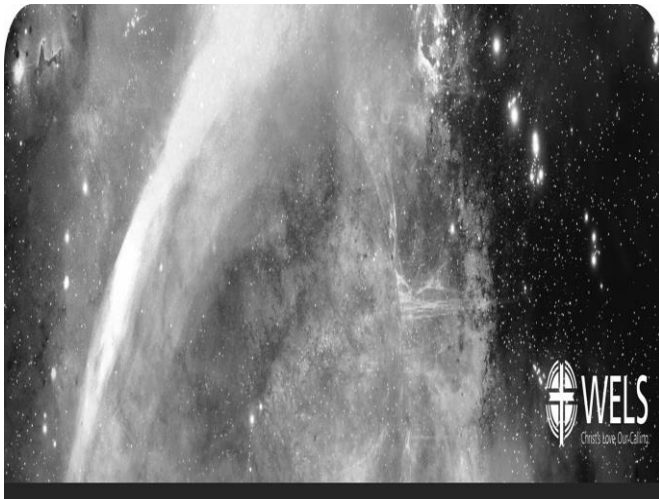


NEWSLETTER

August
2014

Jesus is...Alpha and Omega

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8)



It's a growing trend for business to incorporate subliminal messages in their logos. A close look at the FedEx logo reveals an arrow signifying that FedEx is going somewhere. The Tostitos logo has the figures of two people dipping a chip in salsa. The Amazon logo has a smile connecting the letters A and Z in its name to indicate that you can find anything on their site from soup to nuts or should we say from A to Z. And when you look at their website, you can find just about anything you could ever imagine.

It's interesting then that no less than three times in the book of Revelation, Jesus reveals himself as the Alpha and the Omega. One such time is

in chapter 1 verse 8 where we read, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."* Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last letter. In other words, he is our A to Z. He is everything we need.

He meets our greatest need for forgiveness of sins with his own perfect life and subsequent suffering and death. He gives us faith to receive that forgiveness and all of the other blessings he connects to it, including salvation and eternal life. We can't earn his forgiveness. We can't go online to Amazon and buy it. Jesus simply gives it to us as a gift of his love.

From the beginning of our life to the end, he promises to be with us always. In times of trial and frustration, he supports and strengthens us. In grief and pain, he comforts us. With times of joy, he blesses us. And he promises to meet all our needs for food and clothes and shelter and companionship. We don't have to wonder if he can or will. There's no search bar where we have to type in the keywords of a product we're looking for. Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, promises in his Word to supply all that we could possibly need, in this life and in the next in heaven.

CHURCH NEWS:

Review Of Our 2014 Mission Offerings To The

Synod: On Sunday, June 29, we reviewed some financial matters concerning our synod's budget and St. John's Mission Offering for 2014. A poll was taken from the members present.

Based on the information gathered from the poll, the St. John's Coordinating Council decided to increase our 2014 Mission Offering subscription by 4%. Our total dollar commitment for 2014 is \$19,760.

Poll Results:

- 12 No increase for our 2014 Mission Offering
- 30 4% increase for our 2014 Mission Offering
- 1 Other increase: \$20,000 for our 2014 Mission Offering

If you have any questions, contact Pastor Reichow.

Jesus Cares Ministry (JCM) News: On Monday evening June 30th, St. John's held their annual JCM picnic for our community as well as our JCM participants. The weather was great, the food was awesome and our attendance totaled 70 people. We had a good turnout from our JCM group and caregivers, St. John's members, our volunteers, people from St. Paul's in Arlington and from the Lutheran Home in Belle Plaine. Mike Klatt, CEO of The Lutheran Home thanked St. John's for their continued support and dedication to ministering to people with developmental disabilities.

The evening was divided into eating, a craft and take home project, our Bible story given by the Reichow kids and then entertainment by Chris Driesbach. You might recall he appeared at St. John's a few years ago and did a concert. Everyone did a great job and it appeared all went home full and enjoyed a nice evening.

Our JCM group will not meet until September when we start a new year with a new program. Everyone is invited to help out. If you can't commit to every meeting, come when it works for you. Our regulars this year were Mavis Graupmann, Nora Albers, Sharon Papke, Joyce Koepp and Arvid and Judy Schwartz. We THANK them.

Church Picnic: Our church picnic will be held Sunday, August 24th right here at St. Johns. (*Note the location*) Our worship service will begin at 9:30am. A potluck dinner will follow the service.

Watch Sunday bulletins for more info and mark the date on your calendar.

Sunday School: As we get past the middle of August, we once again focus our attention on the start of Sunday School in September. If you have any concerns, ideas or are interested in helping with Sunday School, you may attend our meeting on Monday, August 25th at 7:00pm or contact Pastor Reichow.

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Results from Synodwide "CMO Revisit": At the time of this report (July 7) not all congregations have had a chance to address the issue of increasing their Congregational Mission Offering (CMO) because their voters' meeting are in July. However, we are happy to report that 831 congregations have responded. The total increase in CMO reported thus far is \$430,608. Instead of changing their CMO commitment, a number of congregations held special offerings totaling more than \$20,000. We thank God for this generous response from God's people, and we thank all (district presidents, circuit pastors, pastors and congregations) who worked to bring about this response.

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LADIES AID

Members of the Ladies Aid are reminded of their meeting on Monday, August 11th at 6:00PM.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 nd	Ronald and Suzanne Schuth (23 rd Anniversary)
3 rd	Benjamin Schuth
4 th	David Schmiegl
5 th	Werner and Arleen Schmidt (58 th Anniversary)
10 th	Carolyn Lange
11 th	Kenneth and Pearl Ortloff (57 th Anniversary)
13 th	Taylor Schmiegl Loren and Darlene Mackenthun (48 th Anniversary)
16 th	Jared Mathwig
18 th	Jennifer Scherer and Jonah Scherer
20 th	Rory Wills
22 nd	Dennis Rabe
23 rd	Roger Schuth
24 th	Marshall Dammann
25 th	Nathan Litzau
26 th	Bruce and Donna Goette (44 th Anniversary)
27 th	Keith Hardel and Laurie Litzau
28 th	Roger and Cindy Schuth (38 th Anniversary)
29 th	Helen Milbrand Mike and Marni Daugaard (5 th Anniversary) Gene and Leah Roush (22 nd Anniversary)