

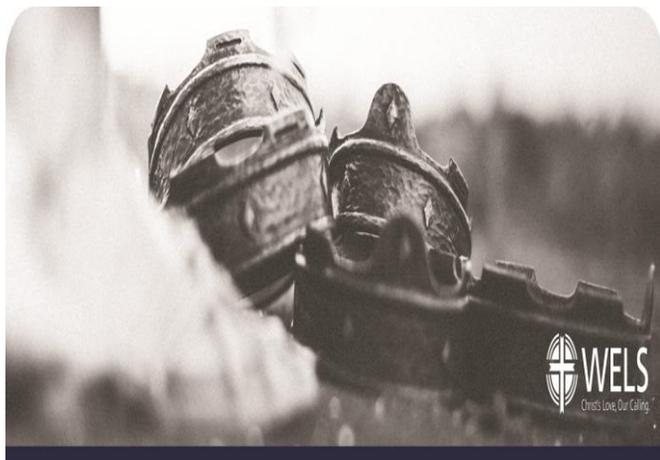


NEWSLETTER

September
2014

Jesus is... King of Kings and Lord of Lords

*On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:
KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.* (Revelation 19:16)



We live in a world that is often affected by tragedy and disaster. Terrorist attacks, war, crime, disease, natural disasters—these are just some of the evils that affect our world. As sinful people living in a sinful world, these are sad realities that we must sometimes face. Even if we aren't directly affected by any great tragedy, problems still affect us all.

Evil in the world around us and problems in our own lives can make us afraid. They can make us feel weak and helpless. Sometimes evil seems to have the upper hand. Sometimes it seems like this world is out of control. We might wonder, "Where is God? Who is in control?"

Our Savior Jesus is in control. The Bible assures us, "*The Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful*

followers" (Revelation 17:14). Jesus, "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world," is King and Lord supreme. He is in control of all things. He rules for the good of his people. His ultimate goal is to bring us safely to our eternal home in heaven.

The evidence of his rule is seen in God's plan for our salvation. On the cross, Jesus conquered sin, death and the devil. He wasn't caught off guard and forced to die. He has always been in control, even on the cross. Jesus willingly gave his life for us, only to take it up again. His death on the cross seemed like defeat, but he rose victorious. He has power over life and death. His resurrection is certain proof of our salvation and assures us of his loving rule.

He remains in control today, despite how it may appear to our human eyes. The Savior, whose love moved him to die for us, is the same Savior whose love leads him to rule everything for our eternal good. That truth calms my fears. It gives me strength to face the difficulties of life.

Especially in difficult times, I need to go to the one who is in control. I need to draw near him through his Word, the Bible. There I hear his promises. There I receive his comfort and reassurance.

He is King of kings and Lord of lords. What comfort I find in that truth!

CHURCH NEWS

Jesus Cares Bible Class As we plan and prepare for the start of our fall Jesus Cares classes, our hearts are full of joy and anticipation. We have a wonderful opportunity to minister to souls and care for people with developmental disabilities. Every member of the congregation can participate in this great gospel ministry. We would love to have you join us this season. Bible class is scheduled to start here at church on Thursday, Sept. 11th at 6:30pm.

Chimes and Choir: We thank the Lord for the opportunity and ability to glorify him with music through these two special groups. Practice for chimes begins on Wednesday, September 3rd. Chimes practice will be at 6:30pm and choir will begin on Wednesday, September 10th at 7:30pm. *New-comers are always welcome to join either group!* Please speak to Lonnie Rabe or Kathy Stuedemann if you are interested in joining either / both chimes and choir. Let's make some beautiful music!

Update on Synodwide "CMO Revisit": Since Congregational Mission Offering (CMO) subscriptions early this year came in significantly below our synod's planned budget, synod leaders encouraged every congregation to review their CMO in June and also to consider increasing their CMO for this year. At our congregational meeting in June, a 75% majority of St. John's members supported a 4% increase in our CMO.

Most of the other congregations in our synod did the same kind of review and either increased their CMOs or gathered a special offering. As a result, our synod leaders have been greatly encouraged by the heartwarming response from our congregations. From this review process, approximately \$500,000 of additional support has been pledged for our synod's work this year. Most of our synod's ministry plans will be retained with some reductions and a few projects being delayed.

Synod President, Mark Schroeder wrote the following: "These reductions, while fairly substantial, were able to be made with no reductions in missionaries and fields, no reduction of school faculties, and no cancellation of major ministry programs. We pray that CMO subscriptions in 2015 will enable us to avoid more difficult reductions in the coming years. Thanks be to God, and thanks to all who were a part of this effort!"

LADIES AID

If anyone is interested in joining the Ladies Aid, please contact Carolyn Lange. Also, the Ladies Aid is sponsoring the food label/box tops collection again.

CATECHISM INSTRUCTION

Parents of 5th - 8th grade students are reminded that Catechism instruction begins on September 3rd. 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. (Adjustments may be made to these times to accommodate the busing schedule.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 7th. Classes will be held after worship on Sundays beginning at 10:00am for our children age 4 through 8th grade. This year's theme is: *"F.O.L.L.O.W Jesus" (Faith in Him; Offerings for him; Love him; Living with him; Obey him; Wait for his blessings).* We will kick off our Sunday School program by welcoming parents to visit with their child's teacher on Sunday, Sept. 7th. Our first day of Sunday School will wrap up with snacks and drinks, and we will choose our mission project for the year.

Also, your presence in worship will be a great encouragement to your brothers and sisters in Christ. See you there!! If any parents have questions, please speak with Pastor Reichow.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 nd	Arvid and Judy Schwartz (53 rd Anniversary)
3 rd	Bryan and Kristen Budahn (3 rd Anniversary)
4 th	Keith Schmidt
7 th	Delbert Heidemann and Loren Mackenthun
11 th	Chad Koenen and Sharon Papke
14 th	Elvera Brelje and Kris Siers Kenwood and Joyce Rund (51 st Anniversary)
17 th	Nora Albers and Pearl Ortloff
19 th	Kayla Reichow Earl and Carolyn Lange (44 th Anniversary)
20 th	Ernie Michaelis
21 st	Lonnie Rabe
24 th	Ruth Lange
26 th	Donna Goette and Stephanie Koepf
29 th	Janet Schuth
30 th	Rebecca Sullivan