



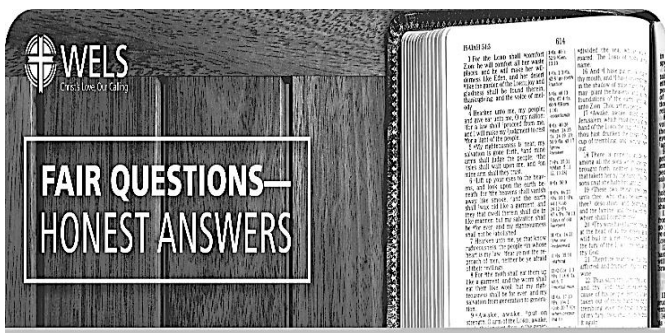
# NEWSLETTER

September  
2015

## What is the importance of Christian Baptism?

*“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).*

*“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23).*



A man lies in the recovery room after serious, life-saving heart surgery. The surgeon walks into the room and gets down on his knees beside the bed. With tears in his eyes the doctor says, “Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I can’t thank you enough for what you have done for me!”

There’s something backwards about that scene. Shouldn’t the patient be the one thanking the doctor? After all, that surgeon saved his life. The patient owes that medical man a huge debt of gratitude.

Many people get Christian Baptism backwards. They think that Baptism is something we do for God, a way of showing obedience to him. That seems appropriate. After all, parents are the ones who bring their children to the baptismal font. However, in Baptism God is really the one who does something for us.

And what wonderful things God does for us in Baptism! The apostle Peter said, *“Repent and be*

*baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).*

In those words Peter describes two of the wondrous blessings of Baptism: the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).* We are all sinners. Sin separates us from God. Sin takes away the blessings he wants us to have. Sin keeps us out of heaven. So God did something about sin. He sent Jesus, his Son. Jesus lived perfectly in our place, died on the cross to pay for all our sins and rose again to assure us of eternal life. In Baptism, God gives us this forgiveness that Jesus won for us.

The other blessing, the gift of the Holy Spirit, is faith or trust in Jesus. Faith is the hand that receives all the blessings that Jesus won for us. In Baptism God miraculously works faith in our hearts so that we don’t miss out on a single blessing that Jesus won for us. Through faith worked in Baptism, God gives us all the blessings earned by our Savior: forgiveness of sins, a new life of peace and hope, and eternal life in heaven.

Is Baptism important? Absolutely! In Baptism God is at work for us. Through Baptism God saves us.

For more Questions & Answers, go to [www.WhatAboutJesus.com](http://www.WhatAboutJesus.com), then *Questioning God.*

## 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. 10<sup>th</sup> 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. Chimes practice will begin on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm and choir will begin on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. If you think you may be interested, come to a practice and check the group out. *New-comers are always welcome to join either group!* Please speak to Lonnie Rabe or Kathy Stuedemann if you have questions in joining either / both chimes and choir. Let's make some beautiful music!

**The Daycare (Early Childhood Ministry) Project:** We are moving forward on this project. We hope to close on the building mid-September. Hopefully, remodeling will start early November. If you are interested in donating towards this project, please be sure Vanessa knows it is designated for the daycare project.

Also, we need a name for the daycare/preschool. If you have any ideas please forward them to Pastor Reichow or Tim Schuth.

**Tired of low interest rates?** St. John's is accepting loans from members of the congregation: \$5,000 – \$9,999 at 3%, \$10,000 – \$19,999 at 3.5%, \$20,000 and up at 4%. Please speak to Tim Schuth about details of the financing and interest rates.

## CATECHISM INSTRUCTION

Parents of 5th - 8th grade students are reminded that Catechism instruction begins on September 9<sup>th</sup>. 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

We will be implementing a new Sunday School curriculum this year! The old curriculum has been

redesigned and updated. We look forward to using the new materials.

Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held after worship on Sundays beginning at 10:00am for our children age 4 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This year's theme is: "*S.E.E.K. To Glorify The Lord*" (*Share Jesus; Encourage others; Enjoy time together in God's family; Knock on God's door*). We will kick off our Sunday School program by welcoming parents to visit with their child's teacher on Sunday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## 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.

## YOUTH NEWS

We are looking forward to having Youth Group events and activities again, starting this fall. Kristen and Bryan Budahn will be serving as leaders for the group. They are working on plans for our first few events – the first event being a ditch clean-up day. Watch Sunday bulletins and your emails for more information.

### Sept. Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Arvid and Judy Schwartz (54 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bryan and Kristen Budahn (4 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
4 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Schmidt
7 <sup>th</sup>	Delbert Heidemann and Loren Mackenthun
11 <sup>th</sup>	Chad Koenen
14 <sup>th</sup>	Kris Siers Kenwood and Joyce Rund (52 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)
17 <sup>th</sup>	Nora Albers and Pearl Ortloff
19 <sup>th</sup>	Kayla Reichow Earl and Carolyn Lange (45 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
20 <sup>th</sup>	Ernie Michaelis
21 <sup>st</sup>	Lonnie Rabe
24 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth Lange
26 <sup>th</sup>	Donna Goette and Stephanie Koepf
29 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Schuth
30 <sup>th</sup>	Rebecca Sullivan