

THE STAFF OF ST JOHN

Church Office

Judy Stahancyk

jstahancyk@st-john-lutheran.org

Phone: 907-745-3338

Fax: 907-746-6117

Senior Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Rockey

jonathanrockey@st-john-lutheran.org

Home Phone: 907-746-5131

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Richard Allen

richardallen@st-john-lutheran.org

Home Phone: 907-746-3919

D.C.E.

Jamie I. Walters

doe@st-john-lutheran.org

Home Phone: 907-355-1456

Music Coordinators

Sara Guhl

guh1@mtaonline.net

Home Phone: 907-745-8097

Marilee Nuffer

marileenuffer@hotmail.com

Home Phone: 907-745-6528

Custodians

John and Cathy Glaser

Home Phone: 745-5067

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E-mail: stjohn@mtaonline.net
Phone: 907-745-3338
Fax: 907-746-6117
P.O. Box 774
440 East Elmwood
Palmer, AK 99645

CHURCH

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

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The Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

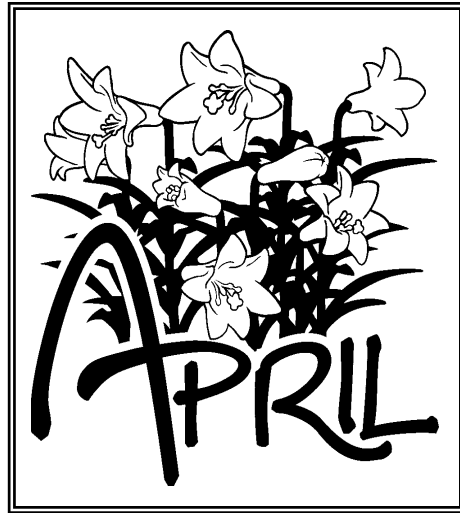
ST JOHN LUTHERAN MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by God's Holy Spirit,
we will share our Savior, Jesus,
so our members, our commu-
nity, and all people live and
grow in Biblical Christian Faith.

"SHARE-LIVE-GROW"

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER APRIL

- 04-03 Friendship Sunday
- 04-03 Begins Pictorial Directory
Pictures
- 04-06 Lenten Supper and Worship
- 04-10 Church Council
- 04-13 Lenten Supper and Worship
- 04-17 Palm Sunday
- 04-17 Confirmation Sunday
- 04-21 Maundy Thursday
- 04-22 Good Friday Service
- 04-23 Easter Festival
- 04-24 Easter
- 04-25 Church Offices Closed

ST JOHN'S FOURTH ANNUAL Easter Festival

SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD @ 10AM TO NOON

BRING YOUR FAMILY TO MAKE FUN CRAFTS!
PARTICIPATE IN AN OUTDOOR EGG HUNT AT 11AM!

We need YOU to HELP BY
DONATING EASTER CANDIES FOR THE EGG HUNT. INDIVIDU-
ALLY WRAPPED PLEASE!

SPONSORED BY THE FAMILY & CHILDREN'S BOARD

Official Acts

Baptisms

Weddings

Funerals



Dear Members and Friends of St. John,

In Scripture God often refers to the church as His children, or as family? We are family because we share the same heavenly Father through God's creative love. We are family because Jesus took human form, becoming our "brother" in God's redeeming love. In Hebrews 2:11 God tells us that our relationship as family is His plan.

Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.

In healthy families people love one another and do things together. But, if our families are neglected the love can suffer. At St. John we have a number of special opportunities this month to grow in God's love as His family.

We can share the love of our Heavenly Father by bringing a friend to worship on Friendship Sunday, April 3.

We can grow to know and love others in God's family as pictures are taken for a new pictorial church directory, April 3-9.

We can celebrate our important events as family, as we celebrate Holy Week and Easter, April 24.

I pray that these opportunities help you to grow in your knowledge of God's love for us, and in our love for one another as family of God.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Rockey

Date	Offering	Attendance
03-06-11	\$9,216.00	156
03-13-11	\$8,606.87	147
03-16-11	\$342.00	58
03-20-11	\$11,018.21	168
03-23-11		81
03-27-11	\$8,938.45	197





Christian Growth
Growing His Way



What grows in the garden without help? Weeds!
Flowers need nurture and care.
Weeds thrive on neglect.

So it is in our lives.
Those of us who belong to Jesus desire to become more and more like Him.
Yet with the apostle Paul we confess, “*I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing.*” (Romans 7:18b, 19)

Satan tempts us to believe:

“There’s nothing wrong with indulging your human nature once in a while.
It’s normal for you to be selfish;
if you don’t look out for you, who will?
Let your neighbor take care of himself.”

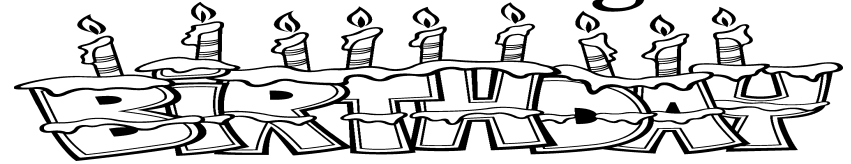
Such thoughts grow like weeds in a garden.

Only the Spirit of God can transform our thinking.
But it is a struggle for us to let Him do this.
It takes day-by-day repentance and surrender.
Such surrender is not defeat.
It is the gateway to victory.

You Are Precious
By Alma Kern



Celebrating a



- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 04-04 | Cody Miller
Izaak Probasco
Christopher Ziegler | 04-16 | Carol Christiansen
Norman Dietz
Dara Niles |
| 04-05 | Lowman Brown
Michael Sweeney | 04-17 | Carolyn Dwight |
| 04-06 | Ardith Richards | 04-18 | Kimberly Kirby |
| 04-07 | Regina McDonald | 04-21 | Carrie McAllister |
| 04-08 | Thomas Leonard | 04-22 | Hans Colberg
Kathy Summers |
| 04-09 | Peter Isackson II
Ann Marie Svedin
Ron Svedin | 04-23 | Marta Kopperud |
| 04-10 | Cheyenne Rojas | 04-24 | Mary Jo Lentz |
| 04-12 | Thomas Lutz | 04-25 | Mary Ann Probasco
Judy Stahancyk |
| 04-14 | Tiana Rogers | 04-26 | Carl Jacobson |
| 04-15 | Philip Walters | 04-28 | Katrina Larson |
| | | 04-29 | Dean Idleman |

Anniversary Wishes



- 04-01 Mark and Shelia Olson
04-15 Mark and Paula Dobbs
04-20 Larry and Dee McAllister
04-30 Norman and Barbara Dietz



MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES



Choir Rehearsal

SENIOR CHOIR is held each Wednesday from 5:30pm to 6:45pm. New senior choir members **ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!** Sara Guhl serves as Choir Director. Please come and join us!



Bell Choir **ST. JOHN BELL CHOIR** practices on Thursdays at 5:30pm. If you would like more information, contact Sharon Allen.

JOYFUL NOISE worship team practices the Fridays before the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month in the Sanctuary at 5:30pm.



- 3— Friendship Sunday
FISH @ Our Redeemer
Meet at St John: 2:30-5:30p
- 6— Youth Night & Bible Study
7:00-8:30pm | Youth Lounge
- 8— Movie Night
7-10pm in the Youth Lounge
- 13— Youth Night & Bible Study
7:00-8:30pm | Youth Lounge
- 15— Freshman Welcome!
- 20— Youth Night & Bible Study
7:00-8:30pm | Youth Lounge
- 22— Good Friday Service
Set-Up @ 3pm | Worship @ 7:30
- 27— Youth Night & Bible Study
7:00-8:30pm | Youth Lounge

High School Youth Schedule



Middle School



Confirmation Classes

Continue Every Wednesday @ 2:30-5pm

Confirmation Day

April 17th at 11am



FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY—Both services. St. John members and friends are encouraged to consider those who may not be attending a church and invite them to worship as a way of sharing God's love! Why not bring a friend and share the joy of knowing God's eternal love in Jesus.



Confirmation Day

CONFIRMATION DAY will be Sunday, April 17th, Palm Sunday. Ten or eleven young people will be confirmed. They will share their faith in the Lord and their desire to live for him. Confirmation ceremonies will take place in late worship. This is also a time for long time members to remember our vows to the Lord. Please keep our confirmation students in your prayers.



If you wish to donate Easter lilies for our Easter Worship, please bring them to the church during the week of April 17th, for Easter morning April 24th. The lilies will be kept in a cool dark place until Easter Morning. Please place your name on the bottom.



Jamie L. Walters, DCE
907-355-1456
dce@st-john-lutheran.org
Look for me on Facebook & Twitter (dcejamie)


IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A COPY OF *THE SR HIGH L.I.G.H.T.*, CONTACT JAMIE VIA EMAIL



LENTEN CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 6
5:30pm Lenten Supper
6:30pm Lenten Worship

Wednesday, April 13
5:30pm Lenten Supper
6:30pm Lenten Worship



HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY
Thursday, April 21
6:00pm
Sedar Supper
7:30pm
Worship-Communion Service

GOOD FRIDAY
April 22
7:30pm
Good Friday Service

EASTER SUNDAY
April 24
7:00am
Sunrise Service
8:00am
Easter Breakfast
9:00 and 11:00am
Easter Worship

MITES



Health Kits

The **LWML** will be putting together health kits for Lutheran World Relief, to send in with the quilts they make in Fall 2010 and Spring 2011.

People who must flee their homes quickly often do not have time to pack essential items. Health kits can help refugees maintain personal hygiene while living in exile. Items may also contribute to a new start for those who can return home.

Items in the Health Kit include:

- *One bath-sized towel, (approx. 52"x27") dark color recommended (lighter weight, not very heavy/plush)
- *Two bath-size bar (4-5 oz.) of soap, any brand in its original wrapping
- *One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging. (Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business envelop; no plastic bags or wrap.
- *One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- *One metal nail clippers, remove packaging

If you would like to help with the health kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR), contributions of an item or items, as listed above, may be placed in the collection box by the LWML Gift Nook.

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Wrap all items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn. Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.



“SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!”

The **Lutheran Women’s Missionary League** (LWML) monthly meeting will be held on April 12th at 7:00pm in the North Fellowship Hall. Bible study/ devotional followed by refreshments. All ladies of the church are welcome to attend.

Lutheran World Relief Project will involve collecting and assembling **Personal Care Kits** to be sent with the quilt shipment in October 2011.

	QUILTING for Lutheran World Relief meets Wednesday mornings at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. If you can cut fabric or tie a knot, come lend a helping hand. This is a good opportunity to visit with other ladies of the church.
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MITES

The National Mission Grants we chose for this April newsletter are: **NATIVE LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ETHNIC IMMIGRANT INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY**, this grant is for \$100,000 and has been half way funded so far. Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, U.S., was established to reach American Indian, Native Alaskan, and 1st Nation’s people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This grant provides 3 to 5 scholarships for those enrolled in this EHT program.

Another National Grant is for the **HOPE CENTER FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS**, based in Cleveland, Ohio. This grant is for \$90,000 and has been funded up to \$20,000. **Build Hope** in the City has been working with immigrants in the Cleveland area since the early 1990’s, this center links newly arrived refugees and immigrants with Lutheran Congregations and provides mentoring, ESL classes, and ministry programming at this drop-in center.

The third national mission is: **MISSION SUPPORT TO DOMINICAN DISABLED CHILDREN**, the grant is for \$50,000. An LCMS missionary, our disabled outreach worker helps train caregivers and families through community-based programs. The Dominican Lutheran church helps to bring the disabled child into society and also into faith and the body of Christ. The bi-annual for these projects ends in 2011, of mites given locally 25% help fund these missions, the other 75% fund our district Mission Grants. Prayers and Mites are gratefully accepted. The large MITE box is on the table in the entry. Thanks for helping.

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MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP continues in April. **Weekly Lenten Worship Services** are held at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday from March 9 through April 13. These mid-week worship opportunities are intended to help us remember Jesus’ love shown in the actions of His sacrificial life. This year’s theme is **“The Blessings of Suffering.”**

- April 6, The Blessing of discipline through Suffering**
Hebrews 12:4-11
- April 13, The Blessings of witnessing through Suffering**
Colossians 1:21-29

Lenten Meals are held before our Lenten Services beginning at 5:30 p.m. This allows people to come to dinner right from work so they can participate in worship. **A sign-up sheet for the Lenten meals has been placed on the table in the narthex. We still need families to serve the meal on April 13.**

SUNDAY LENTEN SERMON SERIES – During Lent our Sunday Sermon Series is entitled, **“THE SACRIFICE OF LOVE”** **As we follow in Jesus’ footsteps, what do we need to be willing to sacrifice to love others.** Our schedule is as follows:

- April 3, Lent 4**
“Worship Wars – Worship Encouragement”
(Friendship Sunday)
John 9:1-16 Romans 14:1-9
- April 10, Lent 5**
“Helping those in Need”
(Stephen Ministry Commissioning – both services)
Matthew 25:31-46, Romans 12:9-16 a



Holy Week



MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 21, we celebrate our Lord's love in instituting the Lord's Supper with a Passover meal at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and a Communion Worship service at 7:30 in the sanctuary. On this night 7th Grade Confirmation Students have an opportunity to take the Lord's Supper for the first time. Cost for the meal is \$9.00 for adults, and \$5.00 for children. This meal is always a highlight in our worship of the Lord! We HOPE to have special music. Plan to attend!



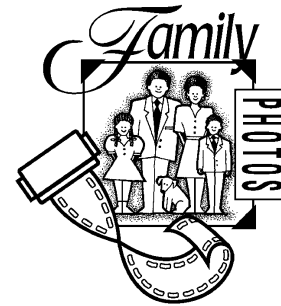
A GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE is held on Friday, April 22. This somber worship service gives God's people an opportunity to remember the greatest sacrifice, the greatest act of love ever shown. God gave His Son to die for our sins. For many years St. John Youth have led this worship and done an excellent job of sharing Jesus' sacrifice and their faith. Worship is at 7:30 p.m.



THREE EASTER SERVICES WILL BE HELD on Easter morning, April 24. The traditional Sunrise service is held at 7:00 p.m. with traditional Easter hymns. Both traditional and contemporary music will be offered at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.



EASTER BREAKFAST will be offered from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The men of St. John are again being asked to present this meal. A free will offering will be received. The men will be seeking donations of hot cross buns from congregational members for this meal.



St. John Pictorial Church Directory – Did you know that St. John will be producing a new Pictorial Church Directory?

Under the leadership of Cheryl Williams and the Fellowship Board, St. John is working with a local company to produce a new directory. The pictures will be taken in the week between Sunday April 3rd and Saturday April 9th. Everyone who sits for a picture gets a directory and an 8" x 10" picture at no cost. There are also options to buy other pictures.

The photographer, who lives in Palmer and does the work here, says the average people spend on a packet of pictures is about \$70.00.

With new computer technology everything is done in one appointment. The picture can be taken and then viewed immediately on the computer. People can then decide if they want to order pictures. All this will take place in the scheduled times from April 3- April 9. Look for sign-up schedules at the church.



Are you going through, or do you know someone who's going through the pain of divorce or separation? St. John Lutheran Church is offering a Christian-based program called **DIVORCE CARE**. Please contact Bev Dubos @ 745-0514 or Judy in the church office: 745-3338 for more information.



Invite your Friends and Neighbors to church on Sunday, April 3rd—Frindship Sunday.

Invite a Neighbor

WEEKLY GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAYS

Cantora Arctica – This is not officially a St. John group. But this women's choir has been practicing at St. John for a number of years on Mondays and brings beautiful music praising the Lord to the Valley community. They practice at 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAYS

Stephen Ministry Class – This class to train new Stephen ministers is being held in a home from 6:30-9:00 p.m. each Tuesday

Divorce Care – This group which helps to bring support and healing is being offered on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Promise Keepers – Promise Keepers men's group meets on Tuesday evenings for sharing and support, Bible study and prayer. We meet in Pastor Rockey's office from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Come and join us.

WEDNESDAYS

Quilting – Our ladies have quilted for decades on Wednesdays and donate the quilts to Lutheran World Relief to share the Lord's love throughout the world. Quilting happens at 9:30 a.m. in the North Fellowship Hall.

Lifelight – This is our 19th year of this noon Bible Study. We are studying *Proverbs* this year from noon to 1:00 p.m. each Wednesday. Bring leftovers to share pot luck.

Confirmation – Classes to help Middle School Children grow in faith are held at St. John on Wednesdays from 2:30 – 5:15 p.m.

Senior Choir – The St. John Senior choir practices on Wednesday evenings beginning at 5:15 p.m.

THURSDAYS

Bell Choir – The St. John Bell Choir practices on Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.

Stephen Ministry Supervision happens the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 6:30 P.M.

FRIDAYS

Friday Night Bible Study – This long-term small group of interested people meet on the Fridays before the first and third Sunday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (after music group practice.)

SATURDAYS

Lay Ministry – Lay Ministry Classes on Worship are being held at 9:00 a.m.



Russian Vacation Bible School VCR tapes Available. Tapes from 1994, 1995 and 1996 are placed in the library and are on top of the shelves. Many of our members visited and conducted VBS in Russia during those years.

Also donated to our library by the Rockey family is the *Bible* on cassette tapes, The New International Version.

There are 4 sets of 2 cassettes each and they are on the top shelves above the cassettes. You are welcome to borrow these and return.

Christianity, the first three centuries, from Christ to Constantine, is an 8 session video series with study and leader's guide by Dr. Paul L. Maier. These are also located on the top shelves with other CD's.

A DVD curriculum for *The Present Future, six tough questions for the Church*. With humor and rare honesty Reggie McNeal challenges church leaders to take authentic Christianity back into the real world. He's asking the right questions to help us get back on track. These are located on top shelves with other large items.

New additions to the library:

#1202 *Why I am a Lutheran, Jesus At The Center* by Daniel Preus. (A book report included by Carol Christiansen.)

#1200 *Together With All Creatures, Caring for God's Living Earth*. This is a report of the commission on theology and church relations. Written by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, April 2010.

#1201 *One People Forgiven*, the convention proceedings of 2010 from the 64th Regular Convention of our church, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Above 3 books are in Administration & Fellowship.

#2409 *Hearts are the Fields* by Ellen Turngren, a book that has been in the library and just recently returned. Set in the farm country of Minnesota in early 1900's, a heart wrenching story. In inspirational & miscellaneous. Two DVD's.

#49 *Former Muslims Testify About Islam* by Dr. Emir Caner, Dean of the College at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Dr. Ergun Cancer, President of Liberty Theological Seminary at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.

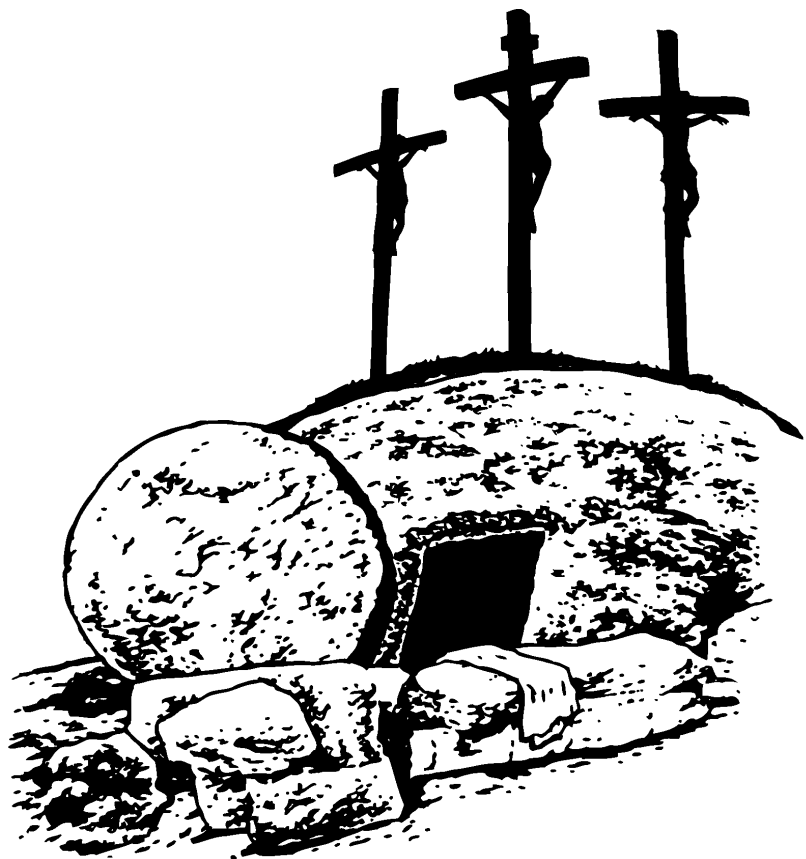
#50 *Hose* an engaging Bible study with booklet by Concordia Publishing House.

Why I Am A Lutheran

I quote from the front inter leaf; "I am a Lutheran for the same reason I am a Christian. It is not by choice but by grace. The teachings of the Lutheran Church places Jesus at the center because the teachings of the Scriptures place Jesus at the center. No other confession demonstrates such fidelity to the truths of God's Word. No other confession so glorifies Christ by placing Him at the center of all it confesses and teaches. Being a Lutheran is truly all about Jesus".

The whole book reminded me of my Confirmation classes when I was an adolescent and it would be a good refresher every ten years or so. With Luther's Small Catechism at the back it gives the feeling of ones need to pray and ask for forgiveness in attempting to meet God's expectations of us.

Carol C. Christiansen
Book report on "Why I Am A Lutheran"



GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Perhaps you have noticed that we have been communicating the process of discipleship at St. John. We are

- **CALLED** by God's grace (his underserved love in Jesus)!
- **GROWING** in God's grace.
- **SENT TO SHARE** God's grace.

DEVOTONS FOR 2011—This year I am encouraging everyone to use the *Portals of Prayer* for daily devotions. There is a special unity of faith and mission that happens when a whole congregation of God's children study His Word together as a congregation. However, we have received the *Portals of Prayer* for decades, and many St. John members use them for devotions, but we have never used these as our official congregational devotion for the year.

Portals of Prayer devotional booklets are available each quarter on the counter in the back of the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASSES FOR WINTER 2011

The Following Classes are being offered.

18 months to 3 years old - "Wooly Lambs Sunday School class.

3 years through 5th Grade – Sunday School this year will be held in VBS style, with classes attending each of 4 stations. This year, classes focus on Jesus and His work and life.

Middle School and High School Classes – These are held each Sunday. High Schoolers meet in the portable classroom building in the parking lot.

Adult Bible Classes – Three Adult Classes are scheduled for Sundays this year –

- *The Lutheran Difference*, a women's class led by Denise Larsen.
- *Missions* led by Al Kastar.
- *1 Thessalonians* a book of encouragement, led by Dave Nufer.