

Welcome Visitor

St. John's Lutheran Church, Hubbell, MI &
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Laurium, MI
James K. Fundum, Pastor
Volume XXXII, Number 12 December 21st, 2009
Online at <http://www.stpaulstjohnlcms.org>

—This, the first of His miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him.” (John 2:11)

Dear friends in Christ,
The Season of Epiphany is filled with miracles of our Lord.
Jesus' first miracle was changing water into wine.

A wedding feast was an occasion for gladness, feasting, and processions—a day of special rejoicing. It wasn't unusual for a wedding feast to last the entire week! It's possible that Jesus was in Cana for seven whole days! Celebrating!

That's not how people often picture Jesus. That's not how many view Christianity. They think we have to have long, sad, sour faces to be faithful Christians. You can't have any fun. In the name of Christianity some hermits have sat on pillars for years. They lived isolated and solitary lives. They took vows of perpetual silence. They beat themselves. They denied themselves sleep. They starved themselves. They took vows of chastity. They thought the unmarried state was superior to being married. They took vows of poverty. And they thought they were earning heaven by doing such things!

Luther said, *—The presence of Christ with His mother and disciples at a wedding feast, and His performing His first miracle there, is a silent condemnation of monkish asceticism, and a recognition of the marriage relation as honorable and holy. Christianity is no flight from the world, no annihilation of the order of nature, but the sanctification of it; no moroseness of spirit, but joy and gladness.”*

Are you a joy-filled Christian? Joy is a fruit of the Spirit. Jesus comes to us and fills our joy to the brim, just like He filled to the brim the joy of those wedding guests at Cana, just like He had those 6 stone waterpots filled to the brim. Jesus provided, not only wine, but about 120 gallons of excellent wine.

Once John's disciples asked Jesus, *—How is it that we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?”* Jesus said, *—How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while He is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.”* That time came when Jesus died on the cross. His hour had not yet come at the wedding at Cana, but on Good Friday His hour came. Then it was a time of sadness for the disciples.

But that sadness was turned to joy on the third day. This is the same joy Jesus gives to you—through the Word. Jesus said, *—I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.”* We can't help but think of Holy Communion as we read this lesson. The joy we know through the forgiveness of sins is a little foretaste of the joy we will know in heaven, a foretaste of the feast to come. The hymnwriter said it well: *—Lord, when You came as welcome Guest to Cana's wedding feast, the bridal pair, divinely blest, found all their JOY increased.”*

May God fill you with joy this Epiphany Season.

—Pastor Fundum

**SUMMARY OF ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH - LAURIUM MICHIGAN
COUNCIL MEETING – DECEMBER 17, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Steve Hein. There were 6 members present.

The Minutes of the November 19, 2009, council meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report for November 2009 was read and approved.

The Financial Secretary's Report for November 2009 was not available.

The Sunday School Secretary's Financial Report for November 2009 was read and approved.

The Deacons - Thanks to Dave and Zack Mongeau for shoveling the back stairs. Matt Hein has also offered to shovel snow when needed.

The Trustees - There is a problem with frozen pipes again.

Pastor Fundum - Michelle Mahrley wants to start a program for children on Wednesday nights for grades 3rd to 8th.

On December 24th Christmas Eve services will be held at 7:00pm at St. John's, and 9:00pm at St. Paul's.

On December 25th a joint Christmas Day service will be held with communion at St. John's .

On December 31st there will be a joint New Years Eve service held at St. Paul's at 7:00pm
Bible study is off for two weeks for Christmas and New Years.

The installation of officers will take place on January 10th at St. John's, and on January 17th at St. Paul's.

Pastor and Marcy will be leaving after the services on January 17th, and will be gone through January 22nd. They are going to Ohio to visit with Pastor's father, and to a Symposium at the Fort Wayne Seminary in Indiana.

New offering envelopes are being distributed. St. John's now has the same envelopes as St. Paul's. When we have joint services, we need to write the name of our church on them.

Old Business – We are asked to continue to think about the church's financial problems.

The church website still needs input from St. Paul's and St. John's.

A motion to adjourn was made and approved. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon M. Schreiber
Secretary - St. Paul's Church

Sunday School- Sunday school has been going well. Our last Camp Luther Social was held on November 22nd. The children are all ready for the Christmas Program on 12/20/09. The youth shopping went well on December 2nd. We had 3 young people and 4 adults help buy items for the Angel Mission, an organization that helps needy teenagers. We also did some shopping for the Food Pantry. Please keep saving your Campbell soup labels for us. Remember, we need the UPC part of the label, and not just the front of the label. Save the entire label, and we'll cut out the part that is needed. Thank you for your support!

Newsletter: The next issue of the Welcome Visitor is scheduled to be mailed on February 1st with Team 1 doing the assembly. Information is due by **January 28th** and may be given or sent to [Sarah Brewer](mailto:SarahBrewer@charter.net) at 369-1956, sebrewer@charter.net or 25984 Lake Linden Ave. Calumet 49913. Thank you!

Prayers – Please continue to pray for Sam Aldis (*Jim Schultz's brother-in-law*), Ted Bedore, Mary Jo Crawford, Jean Grahek, John Griffin, Lynn Harvey (*Jack & Wanda's daughter-in-law*), Marian Ingersoll (*friend of the Niemelas*), Al Jorgenson, Homer Keranen, Doris Kitt, Don Koop, Tresten Lepisto (*Gordie & Kris' son*), Laurie MacIntosh (*Shirley's daughter-in-law*), Reuben LaMothe, Jim Laurinaho, John Lehto, Chloe Lotterman (*Jim Schultz's grandniece*), Mildred Loughner, Marcia Miller, Reino Narhi, Sr., Carl Nelson (*Bill's brother*), Darcy O'Hara (*Terry Johnson's niece*), June Peterson, Meagan Rhodes (*Roxanne's granddaughter*), Ben Schuler (*Myles & Sue Gregorich's grandson*), Betty Schumacher (*Bev Lahti's daughter*), Debbie Tanner (*Michelle Mahrley's step-mother*), Phyllis Tapani (*Marcy's aunt*), Virginia Timonen (*Margaret Lauren's aunt*), Ella Torvinen (*4-year-old daughter of Jeff and Brandy, friends of the Mahrleys*), Joe Winter (*Roxanne Narhi's father*), Alice Ziemnick (*Ron's wife & Mary Leiker's sister*) Also please pray for Lucas Velmer, stationed in Afghanistan; also Adam Johnson and Travis Belter (Jean Grahek's great-nephew), both deployed to Iraq and all the other service men and women.

Baptism: Weston Dale Mahrley was baptized at St. Paul's on December 6th 2009. He is the son of Kraig and Michelle Mahrley. He was born November 11th, 2009.

Hospital visits – Due to confidentiality restrictions at the hospitals (HIPPA) please let Pastor know if any member from your family is in the hospital.

Funeral – We pray for Kathleen Arten and family upon the death of her father-in-law, Ollie Arten. (Kathleen substitutes as organist in our parish.)

OUTREACH: Please continue to remember our ongoing collections of *non-perishable food items and paper products* for the local food pantry, toiletries for the Shelter Home for Abused Women or Omega House, Stamps for missions, layette items for Lutheran World Relief and Campbell's Soup labels for Camp Luther. Items may be brought to either church and left in the back. Someone will see that they get to the proper place. Thank you for your contributions!

SUMMER CAMP 2010 ONLINE REGISTRATIONS OPENED JANUARY 1!!! You can now register for Summer Camp 2010 at www.campluther.com. Ensure your first choice week and village at our secure website. If you have attended camp before, you should have received a brochure in your mailbox in mid December! **And don't forget to bring a friend who has never been to Camp Luther before, and you will both get a 20% discount!!**

COLLEGE STUDENTS NEEDED... To fill 2010 Summer Staff positions at Camp Luther, such as counselors, lifeguards and first aid/arts and crafts coordinator. Detailed job descriptions/applications are available at www.campluther.com. Those who apply and are accepted will enjoy a fulfilling and active summer having fun and sharing their Christian faith with children of all ages. Please prayerfully consider this meaningful summer opportunity. In addition, **High School sophomores, juniors, and seniors** are eligible to apply for Junior Counselor positions; applications are currently being accepted. Find applications and more information at www.campluther.com and click on "Get Involved".

LWML: The January LWML meeting will be on **January 20th at 7pm** at *St. Paul's*. **All ladies are invited to join.** We will have a short meeting, coffee, dessert and a devotion.

Our local mission project
Since we are "*Lutheran Women in Mission*" we decided to come up with a local mission project.
We collected 5 "take home baskets" for the shelter home. We filled laundry baskets w/ a variety of cleaning items, paper towels, toilet paper, etc. We donated them to the women's shelter, so when they move to their own place they have a few items to help them get started.

Our annual **Youth Shopping trip** occurred on Wednesday, December 2 in Calumet. We purchased \$250 worth of items for teenagers in support of the Angel Tree at the local Angel Mission and \$250 of food for the CLK Food Pantry. Funds for this shopping trip come from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' Western UP Chapter *Care in Communities* program and St. Paul's Sunday School. Shoppers included: Mitchell Ninko, Reilly Schreiber, and Melissa Mattila. Drivers and chaperones were Karen Laurenaho, Mary Niemela, Shannon Schreiber, and Allison Hein. Thanks to others who made additional contributions to both programs, and helped with packing the items up and delivering them.

The food pantry continues to need items all year round. Suggestions for contributions include: cereal of all kinds, hamburger helper, canned meats (spam, tuna, chicken, etc), salad/side packets, jello/pudding, spaghetti sauces, mac and cheese, canned soup/vegetables/fruit, 4-roll packs of toilet paper, and seasonal treats (cookies, candy, etc).

Thanks to everyone who helped with **St. Paul's church decorating**, tree trimming, and wreath making on Dec 6. We had a great turnout for the lunch potluck and many hands helped things move along quickly.

Thank you to everyone who contributed **pies** in November! Thanks to your generosity, 34 pies were donated to Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly for their Thanksgiving dinners. Fruit pies of all kinds were made: cherry, apple, blueberry, sweet potato (!) and, of course, pumpkin. Thank you to everyone!

Guidelines for Gathering Stamps

1. Cut the stamps from envelopes with a 1/4" margin around the stamp. Be careful not to cut the stamp. The perforations must be perfect.
2. Do NOT pull or take the stamps from the envelope.
3. Commemorative U.S. stamps, denominations larger than first class postage, and foreign stamps are especially valuable.
4. Do NOT remove stamps from albums, older postcards and/or envelopes, or first-day covers. Send in the entire album, envelope or postcard. This does not include postal cards sold by the post office. An "old" card is usually from 1930 or before.

North Wisconsin District Stamp Program: Stamps are sorted, boxed, and shipped to a stamp broker in Missouri. All proceeds are given to LCMS World Mission. Since 1995, the program has gathered nearly \$7,000. Stamps may be left at church, given to an LWML zone president or sent directly to: Shirley Hein, E7853 County Road O, Clintonville, WI 54929

Do you have an artificial Christmas tree that you are getting rid of after the holidays? The LWML convention decorating committee is looking for donations of green artificial trees of all sizes to decorate the stage during the convention in June. Please contact Allison if you have a donation.

LWML: Lutheran Women in Mission who are:

In the Word – honoring a daily appointment with the Father and His Word

Of the Word – made over by the Holy Spirit, forgiven and restored

Walking with the Lord – totally confident of Christ's presence in serving and living

Planning ahead – the district ***Young Women's and Young at Heart Retreat*** is coming up on April 10, 2010 (registration deadline is March 12, cost is \$25) in Eau Claire, WI. The speaker will be Jan Struck – Jan brings a fresh approach to the journey of faith and uses her sense of humor as she shares her life with fellow travelers and leaves them laughing. Her trust and faith in Christ is her reason to make a 'joyful noise unto God'!! More information is available on the NWD LWML web site (www.nwdlwml.org) or talk to Allison Hein (337-1487, amhein@mtu.edu).

The **North Wisconsin District LWML 33rd Biennial Convention** is coming to Michigan Tech in early June 2010 and you are invited! Registration information will be coming out in January in the Mission Tidings newsletter and on the web page www.nwdlwml.org. The Mission Speaker will be ***Dr. James Lamb from Lutherans for Life***. Luncheon speakers will focus on social issues including prison ministry, domestic violence (featuring our own Mary Niemela as one of the presenters), and sexual assault. There will be servant events (Michelle Mahrley is helping organize those) and a Mites for Missions walk-a-thon.

We are still planning the convention – and you are welcome to help! The next planning meeting will be on Saturday, January 23 in Iron River. Please talk to Allison Hein (337-1487, amhein@mtu.edu) for more information.

North Wisconsin District 2008-2010 LWML Mission Grants –The mission goal is \$92,500. Seventy five percent of the Mites collected in our district go toward funding these projects and expenses. The remaining 25% go toward the national Mite projects. More information about the district LWML is found at: www.nwdlwml.org

1. NWD Professional Church Work, Student Grants - \$20,000 - ½ paid
2. Telling the Next Generation: Children's Bible Story Books for Southeast Asia - \$5,000 - paid
3. Help for Disaster Victims, Orphan Grain Train, WI Div - \$5,000 -paid
4. Food and Clothing CO-OP assistance, Ft. Wayne Seminary - \$10,000
5. Bibles for Int'l Students, Peace Campus, Stevens Point, WI - \$5,000 - paid
6. Training Mat'ls for Deaf Mission Outreach Centers in North WI - \$9,000
7. Hmong Ministry in the Appleton and Eau Claire, WI - \$12,500 - paid
8. Ministry of Hope, Victory Lutheran, KI Sawyer, MI - \$10,000 - paid
9. Seminary Expansion in Madagascar - \$10,000
10. Bible Study Curricula, Bethesda Lutheran Homes & Services - \$5,000
11. East Central WI Lutheran HS Assoc., Wolf River Lutheran High School (partial) - \$1,000

National LWML MISSION GRANTS 2009-2011 Biennium

Give all thanks and praise to God!

2009-2011 National Mission Goal: \$1,825,000

Check out the LWML web page: www.lwml.org

1. Defray the Cost of Shipping Quilts by Lutheran World Relief - \$80,000
2. Concordia Seminary, St Louis Food Bank Relocation - \$50,000
3. The Carpenter's Hands - Youth Refurbish Homes in Florida - \$26,000 **pd**
4. Psalm 69:14 Project - Emergency Disaster Aid in TX, OK, and LA- \$50,000
5. Digitize Classes for Specific Ministry Pastor Program - Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft Wayne - \$36,000
6. 10 Chapels, Transportation, and Pastoral Training in Tanzania - \$88,000
7. Body and Soul Care for Children in India - \$50,000
8. LCMS Prison Ministry Provides Devotional Materials - \$50,000
9. Lutheran Braille Workers Provide English Braille Bibles – Africa - \$100,000
10. Kyrgyzstan Locals Trained for Evangelism - \$100,000
11. The Hope Center for Refugees and Immigrants – Ohio - \$90,000
12. Human Care and Pastoral Ministries Developed in Latvia and Lithuania - \$87,500

13. Mission Support to Disabled Children - Dominican Republic - \$50,000
14. Native Leadership Scholarships for Students Enrolled in Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) - \$100,000
15. Humanitarian Care Outreach in Kazakhstan - \$90,000
16. International Student Ministry Provides Bibles and Christ-Oriented Resources - \$30,000
17. Earthquake Relief Aid and Church Plants in Peru - \$100,000
18. Light of Christ Chinese Lutheran Mission - St Louis - \$75,000 **pd**
19. Humanitarian Aid Opens Mission Field in North Korea (*partially funded*) - \$82,482

Mission Story: Psalm 69:14 Project – Emergency Disaster Aid in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana - \$50,000 – this project is paid
“Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink; deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep waters.” Psalm 69:14

Lutheran Social Services South (LSSS) and its affiliate Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response (LSSDR) offer people affected by natural disasters hope, comfort, and aid. LSSS, a 125-year-old Lutheran Social Ministry Association, provides help, healing, and hope in the name of Jesus Christ to an area that includes Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. It partners with Lutheran churches to provide immediate disaster response, recovery support, and long-term rebuilding. Using nearly 40,000 volunteers, LSSS rebuilt and repaired more than 12,000 homes and provided case management to nearly 10,000 households following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

A recent update on this project from Cecilia Blanford, grant director of LSSS, states that many are still repairing damages from Katrina. She writes that in one family, the father who is a construction worker had already fixed their damaged roof and one wall before he became a LSSDR client. He needed financial resources for materials so that he could continue repairing his family's home. LSSSDR aided him in securing funds to purchase critically needed materials including Sheetrock, flooring, insulation and sporicide to kill mold from the water damage. Many families cannot afford insurance on their homes or belongings and have little or no personal resources with which to finance their recovery. LSSSDR gave hardship grants in the amount of \$300 each to help with temporary housing, medicines, and food. Due to the disasters that have affected this part of our nation, the resources of LSSS have been greatly depleted.

By God's grace, this LWML grant will provide funds to support future emergency aid in the form of one-time hardship grants, averaging \$300, for shelter, medicine, and other critical needs.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD- December, 2009							
	<u>Nov. 22</u>	<u>Nov.25</u>	<u>Nov. 29</u>	<u>Dec. 6</u>	<u>Dec. 13</u>		TOTAL
St. Paul's							
Envelopes	653.00		976.00	875.00	1,019.00		
Plate	23.70		29.00	275.00	10.00		
Mission			15.00	183.00	33.00		
Flowers				25.00	84.00		
Copier				8.75	6.75		
Cookbook				8.00			
Newsletter					10.00		
St.PP Luth. Hr.	57.50						
TOTAL	734.20		1,020.00	1,366.00	1,162.75		4,282.95
Attendance	60.00		60.00	59.00	55.00		
Communed	45.00		47.00		45.00		
Sunday School							
Attendance	11.00		14.00	14.00	14.00		
Camp Luther Social	27.00						
Offering	22.02		24.00	25.00	30.00		128.02
St. John's							
Envelopes	1,502.00	195.00	700.00	706.00	711.00		
Plate	10.00	5.00	41.00		20.00		
Missions	30.00		50.00	90.00			
Flowers					40.00		
Organ fund	20.00			15.00			
Bible Study	67.00			18.00			
TOTAL	1,629.00	200.00	791.00	829.00	771.00		4,220.00
Attendance	48	42	48	50			
Communed			41	42			

JANUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day Circumcision & Name of Jesus	2 12:00 Noon Conf./Absol. @ St. John's
3 Christmas II	4	5 7:00 PM Choir	6 Epiphany	7 10:00 AM Bible Study @ SP	8	9 10:00 AM Confirmation
10 Baptism of Our Lord	11	12 7:00 PM Choir	13 2:00 PM Cable TV Service	14 10:00 AM Bible Study @ SP	15	16 10:00 AM Confirmation
17 Epiphany II	18 ML King Day Confession of St. Peter	19	20 2:00 PM Cable TV Service	21 7:00 PM Voter's Meeting @ St.	22	23 10:00 AM Confirmation
24 Epiphany III	25 Conversion of St. Paul	26 St. Titus	27 2:00 PM Cable TV Service	28 10:00 AM Bible Study @ SP	29	30 10:00 AM Confirmation
31 Epiphany IV 8:30 & 10:30 AM Worship with Holy Comm. @ St. John's and St. Paul's (G) Ord. Of Serv p. 15 Hymns 72, 83, 328, 376 9 & 10 AM Sunday School	February 1st Assemble Newsletter with Team 1				Notes:	