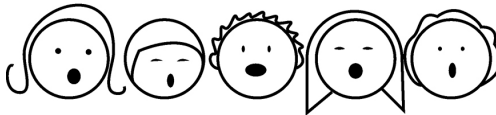

Pastor Dan Pool: 321-6757, home
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Do you have a question that has just always bothered you or have always wanted to ask? Why do we do that on Sunday morning? What does this verse mean? What do we believe about that issue? Chances are if you have a question, then others have the same question too! So ask!

Pastor Pool will try to answer some of your questions before Service beginning in January on those Sundays when Holy Communion is not celebrated. Look for the Stump the Pastor table in the Fellowship Hall. Cards for your questions will be provided. See if you can Stump the Pastor!

Choir Rehearsals and Confirmation Classes



Choir rehearsals and Confirmation Classes will begin again on January 6 at the regular times:

5:30 High School Choir
6:00 Youth Choir
7:15 Confirmation Classes
8:00 Adult Choir

A Note from Pastor Pool: A New New Year Challenge

Last January I challenged us to spend some time reading through the entire New Testament. I hope this challenge allowed you to be in God's Word with a time of regular devotions. And it is that habit or practice that I hope will continue.

My challenge for us this year is to spend some time in the Old Testament. I am guessing that in general, the Old



Testament is just a little more intimidating to read than the New Testament. It is full of history, commandments, and prophecies, and we have a hard time knowing how to make all the pieces fit.

Let me offer a couple of tools to help you get started. On January 10th I will begin my new Sunday morning class that will be studying the Philosophy of Philippians. This class is going to begin with some basic Bible study skills as we learn to read the Bible together as Lutherans. This class will equip you to better read the Scriptures, Old and New Testaments. Please join us.

I would also to encourage you to have a quality Study Bible in your home. I highly recommend the Study Bibles published by our own Concordia Publishing House: The Concordia Self-Study Bible (NIV), or the one that I use, The Lutheran Study Bible (ESV). They both offer exceptional help to introduce the books of the Bible to you before you read and also offer comments about difficult readings. Both can be ordered at www.cph.org.

Now, because of the length and difficulty of the Old Testament, we will limit our reading to a few select books,

(continued on next page)

mostly stories, which will give an interesting overview of the history of the people of God: Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Psalms, Proverbs, Daniel, Jonah, and Zephaniah. Remember that these are the Scriptures that the New Testament authors were reading and they point forward to the coming of Jesus Christ.

As always your questions about your reading are welcome. And I will be reading along with you. And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Pool

Carol Stuedemann is Retiring

Carol Stuedemann has given us 30 years of dedicated service. Thank you! Starting the first of the year, she will be retired, but will continue to help us part time until the new Office Manager is fully trained. To celebrate her retirement, there will be coffee and coffee cake after both services on Sunday, January 17 in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us!



Office Manager

Thank you to everyone who applied for the Office Manager position. We have stopped accepting applications and are holding interviews during the month of January.

New Bible Study Topics

Ladies' Evening Bible Study

Ladies' Evening Bible Study is starting a *new* topic! Come learn about Zephaniah with us starting January 5. During Advent, Pastor Pool talked about Zephaniah twice. We will take a closer look at just what this Minor Prophet has to say. This Bible Study takes place on the first and last Tuesdays of each month at 7 pm. All women are invited; come to the parsonage, 422 Main Ave.



Christian
Education

High School Bible Study

Can science actually back the Bible? Do evolution and atheism have a connection? What are the challenges facing Christians in third period science class as well as the scientific world at large? Starting Sunday, January 3 during the 9:00 Sunday School hour, Adam Barkley will lead a new Bible Study series for High School students at St. John in room 5. Video clips from Ben Stein's movie *Expelled* will be used throughout the study. Special emphasis on creationism as told from Genesis, Isaiah, and the Gospels will be looked at as well. College-age students are encouraged to attend!

The Philosophy of Philippians



**Sunday Morning
Bible Study**

Beginning Sunday January 10th, Pastor Pool will be teaching a new class entitled "The Philosophy of Philippians." Before studying St. Paul's letter to the Philippian Christians, the class will offer a specifically Lutheran introduction to the entire Bible. The goal of the class is to read the Bible on God's terms by understanding His central themes throughout the Holy Scriptures. Join us Sundays at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. There is no cost, handouts will be provided, and please bring your Bible.

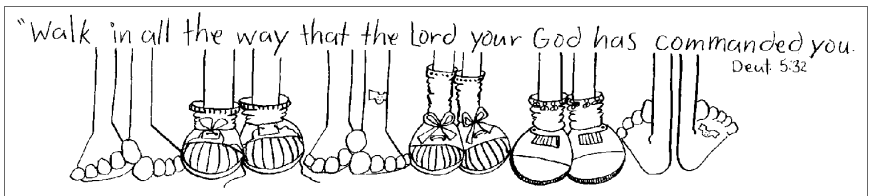
HIGH SCHOOL ELEVATE CONFERENCE

Attention all High School Students: on January 23 Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bettendorf is sponsoring an Elevate Conference. This is a unique opportunity where youth from at least four surrounding LCMS churches gather for an enriching purpose. The event takes place from 7-8:30pm. There will be a massive game followed by pizza and then a guest presentation by a member of the Quad City Creation Science Association. Youth are asked to bring 5 dollars to help pay for food and the presenter. A sign-up sheet will be in the education hall. We will meet at church at 6:00 pm and carpool.

Preschool News

As our preschoolers prepared for the celebration of Jesus' birthday, they were able to fully experience the manger, hay, and baby Jesus as the dramatic play center was transformed into a stable. Robes, headpieces, halos and animal costumes made our Bethlehem experience more realistic. Excitement grew as Christmas approached, yet each of our preschoolers now understand why we celebrate this special time of the year. This joy was shared with family and loved ones at our Christmas program.

As we begin the new year, the dramatic play center will go from Bethlehem to the wintry climes of Iowa and the North Pole. Our learning will lead in a new direction, yet the excitement 3- and 4- year-olds exhibit will only continue.



Scrap-booking

From A to Z: God's Word for My Family

Do you like to scrapbook?

Let's gather together and capture memories by scrap-booking!

Never scrap-booked before?

It's OK! We'll teach you!

LWML created an idea for a new themed scrapbook. They call it "From A to Z: God's Word for My Family." Each letter of the alphabet has a corresponding Bible verse, and your job is to find pictures that go with that letter (for example: Ice Skating for "I").

Members of St. John Lutheran Church are invited to meet at church at 10:00 am on Saturday, January 16, 2010 for a day of fun and fellowship. You are welcome to bring a current scrapbook to continue, or a new one to start this particular project.

St. John will provide paper in various colors, markers and pens, scissors, photo adhesive, some accessories, and the Bible verses to use for the project.

Please bring a scrapbook to work with, your photos, any other supplies you would like to use, and \$10 to cover the cost of lunch and supplies.

There will be a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall after services January 3 and 10. Please sign up so we know how much food to order.

For questions or recommendations on what to bring, call or e-mail Deaconess Intern Sarah Barkley.

Work: 563-242-5588

Home: 563-321-4010

e-mail: sbarkley@stjohn-clinton-ia.org



The Deaconess Den

In the song the 12 Days of Christmas, twelve different gifts that might be given to a king were brought by “my true love.” As a child, I often wished there really *were* twelve days of Christmas! But in the church year, we find that the 12 days of Christmas is a real tradition. This refers to the twelve days between Christmas Day and Epiphany (January 6). So even though I don’t get a tree-full of presents each of those twelve days, I still enjoy celebrating the birth of Christ for a longer period of time.

Epiphany is our next season in the church year, starting on January 6, which is also the day we remember the three wise men (Magi) who visited Jesus. They came seeking a King, the King of the Jews, and they brought Him kingly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In doing so, they were showing that they believed this small child was the King of the Jews. This year we will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 3.



The light that
shines in
darkness!

Epiphany means “to show or reveal” and reminds us of light which shines in the darkness and reveals what is really there. The Magi followed a star which revealed Jesus to them. In Isaiah 60:1 we read, “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.” This light is the light of the world, Jesus. Sin has put us in the dark, but God our Father did not want to leave us there. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be this light for us.

God likes to work in ways which do not seem common to man. He revealed His power and glory by dying on the cross, which made even the devil think that Jesus was defeated. Likewise, God chose to come to earth in a tiny baby who had nothing, in order to give us everything.

-Deaconess Intern, Sarah Barkley

January Birthdays

CONGRATULATIONS!

Happy Birthday to:

Mary Ann Strouss, who will be 85 on January 12.

Alta Doescher, who will be 91 on January 20.

Bob Hammer, who will be 80 on January 31.



We list birthdays 80 and above and anniversaries for year one and every five years thereafter unless we receive a request not to do so.

Offering Envelopes

January 3 is the last Sunday that the 2010 offering envelopes will be available in the fellowship hall. After January 3 the offering envelopes will be placed in the bulletin slots. If anyone would like envelopes and did not receive them, please call the church office, 242-5588.

Private Communion Calls

Pastor Pool will be making private communion calls on January 19, 20 and 22. All our members in nursing homes are automatically visited and receive communion every month. Those at home who would like to receive communion are asked to call the church office, 242-5588, to schedule a convenient time.

Mary Martha and Sewing Circle

Mary Martha and Sewing Circle will not meet in January and February.

THOSE WHO SERVE IN JANUARY

Early

Elders: Rick Eizenga
Gene Niebuhr

Ushers: Ron McGauvran
Gary Lueders
Jon Meyermann
Bill Ross

Nursery Attendants (Late)

3 – Barb & Taylor Bialas

10 – Natalie Jackson
& Emily Pool

17 – Heather Becker

24 – Sandy Bovis

31 – Peter & Tara Sirna

Late

Elders: Troy Bialas
David Martinez

Ushers: Wes Stuedemann
Wayne Becker
Marty Bovis
Richard Stahl

Acolyte Schedule

3-Early – Lenee Andresen

3-Late – Tyler Petersen

10-Early – Ryan Clement

10-Late – Megan Mojeiko

17-Early – Elder

17-Late – Jordan Chapman

24-Early – Lewis Meyermann

24-Late – Jacob Simpson

31-Early - Elder

31-Late – Tad Bartels