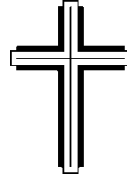


St. Matthew's Announcements
January 31, 2010



2010-2011 3K, 4K, and Kindergarten Enrollment

We are enrolling children for our early childhood programs now. For enrollment information, please contact Laura Lai at llai@smls.org, or 567-5396 ext.46.

Wednesday, February 24 - Early Childhood Choir and Open House

Children from Power Hour, 3K, 4K, and ECE Sunday School will be singing during the 4:00 p.m. service. The same groups will be preparing the dinner being served at 5:00 p.m. We will also be holding an Open House from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the 3K/4K and Kindergarten classrooms. Visitors will have an opportunity to speak with Mrs. Lai and Mrs. Ziel about the 2010-2011 school year. For more information, please contact Laura Lai at llai@smls.org, or 567-5396, ext. 46.

Preschool Power Hour A new session is just weeks away and you don't want to miss all the fun, so register today for the Spring Session of Power Hour for children ages 0-4. Please note the display in the Fireside Room with registration forms and visit our website at www.smls.org/powerhour. You may also call 262-567-5396 ext. 15 to leave a message. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 9 to 10 a.m. and begin February 3.

Please be careful! Those of you who have driven back and forth on Wisconsin Avenue know that there is a great deal of work being done on the street and sidewalks. This work is now taking place in front of our property. Please use extra caution when walking on the Wisconsin Avenue sidewalk, as well as when driving out of the parking lot and turning onto Wisconsin Avenue.

Need a little extra exercise? - Parking off site if possible will give you a longer distance to walk into church and will leave room open for those who need to park closer and for our visitors.

Handicapped Parking - Please keep the areas open and free of vehicles for all of our handicapped parking. Please keep the spot in front of the school ramp open as well for our Sunday Bible school students using the ramp going into the school section of the building.

Upcoming Fellowship Opportunities

Sunday, February 7th - SOUPER BOWL Sunday -4:30 p.m. to the end of game The Super Bowl game will be shown in the Fellowship Center - just like big screen TV. We are planning a chili dump. The bowls/plates/utensils and the trimmings that go with chili will be supplied. Here is what we would like you to bring:

- Ice cream bucket of chili or a snack
- Beverage for you and your family

August 13-15 - CAMPING - Silver Springs Campground, Rio, WI

Camping anyone? The Fellowship committee is reserving 8 sites at the Silver Springs Campground in Rio, WI - There is a swimming pool and a lake, playground, volleyball, store, showers, etc. The cost is \$42 a night with water/electric. **They will only hold the sites for 2-3 weeks, so we need to know as soon as possible if you are interested.** Please put your name on the signup sheet in the back of church or contact Dawn Lauterbach at 262-569-7784 or lauterb@sbcglobal.net. Everyone brings their own tents/campers, food, drink, etc. More details will follow as we get closer to the date. Check out their website at silverspringscamp.com

ACTS

Sunday, January 31st – 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. – This afternoon.

We will go ice skating behind the school. If you do not have ice skates come with your boots – that will work just as good.

Youth Rally – July 14th - 17th – Trego, WI

WELS Northern WI District Youth Rally – MORE THAN CONQUERORS – held in Trego, Wisconsin

See the www.MoreThan2010.com for more information

Sunday, February 14th – registration forms are to be turned in to the ACTS leaders

Any questions, please contact smyers@smls.org, dschmidt@smls.org or lauterb@sbcglobal.net

If you would like a reminder on the ACTS activities, please let one of the leaders above know how you would like to receive this – via text, email, phone call.

Upcoming activities will include bowling, open gym nights, serving for the Lenten dinner. New suggestions are always welcome! Any adult that would like to be on this committee is welcome – it only takes about 3-4 hours on average a month.

Dead Sea Scrolls Q and A

Question: *Exactly what are the Dead Sea Scrolls all about?*

Answer:

There are two main types of documents among the Dead Sea Scrolls. The first type is manuscripts of the books of the Old Testament. Most of these are just fragments of the books, but these manuscripts are of great importance. They are 1,000 years older than the previously known copies of the Hebrew Old Testament. They show that the Old Testament was faithfully and accurately copied and transmitted from the time of Christ to us. During 1,000 years of copying it was faithfully transmitted.

The other type of documents is religious writings of the Jews of that time, some of them perhaps of the sect called the Essenes. The exact nature of these documents is disputed. These documents help us understand the beliefs and practices of some groups among the Jews at the time of the New Testament, but they do not add anything significant to the understanding of the New Testament. Claims to find Jesus, John the Baptist, or Paul in the documents are not well founded. Many extravagant claims have been made for the documents, but their value is limited to providing background to the New Testament period.

Question: *Most people want proof that the Bible is true. How can I answer them?*

Answer:

Your observation is accurate that people often want proof that the Bible is true. That shouldn't surprise us since we live in a society that is strongly influenced by science and the scientific method. However, the demand for proof is nothing new. St. Paul had to contend with this attitude in his day. He writes to the Corinthians, "Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified; a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength" ([1 Corinthians 1:22-25](#); please read [1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16](#)).

We make a mistake if we think that we can argue people into heaven or that if we only present some proof that the Bible is true, people will believe. The Bible is self-authenticating—it has the power in itself (the power of the Holy Spirit) to convince people of its truthfulness. I know that the Bible is true because the Holy Spirit has worked that conviction in my heart. When we proclaim what the Bible teaches, the Holy Spirit will work through our proclamation (see [Isaiah 55:10-11](#)).

When speaking with skeptics and unbelievers we make a mistake if we begin by trying to prove that the Bible is true. Rather we are to begin with a proclamation of Law and Gospel, sin and grace. We proclaim the Law to show people their sinfulness and to show them that they deserve eternal punishment because of their sins. We proclaim the Gospel to show people that God has forgiven them in Christ Jesus. Jesus was the sacrificial Lamb who was punished for the sins of the world. God has declared us not guilty, forgiven, because he declared Jesus guilty in our place. Through faith in Jesus we have forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. When the Holy Spirit leads people to believe in Jesus he begins to open their understanding of Scripture as a whole. He leads them to recognize that what the Bible says is true.

Question: *How do I know the Bible is the Word of God?*

Answer:

You've asked an extremely important question. "Because the Bible says it's God's Word" is the short answer, but one that most people won't be satisfied with. It's certainly true that the Bible says it is God's Word ([2 Peter 1:20, 21](#)). Just think of how many prophetic books in the Bible begin with, "The word of the LORD came to" or how often the prophets introduce their words with, "This is what the LORD says."

On the other hand, most people who pose the question want corroboration from an independent, outside source that proves that the Bible is God's Word. And that, of course, is the problem. What independent outside sources are there? God is one, of course—but the Bible is the only Word of God that we have, and the Bible itself tells us not to expect any other ([Isaiah 8:20](#), [Revelation 22:18, 19](#)). God isn't going to speak from heaven and tell us, "This is my book. Believe it" since He has spoken through His Son, who Himself accepted the Old Testament as God's Word and sent out His eyewitnesses with the inspired New Testament record (John 17:17-20).

Human beings are the only other possibility. But human beings are hardly unbiased or impartial. As they are by nature, they have every reason not to believe the Bible's claims about itself. That's one reason why arguments that believers find persuasive—like biblical prophecies that were clearly and obviously fulfilled, or the fact that the Bible is still around despite centuries of being vehemently attacked and suppressed, while certainly corroborating evidence to the Bible's inspiration—don't necessarily convince unbelievers.

Fortunately, the Bible doesn't need independent corroboration, because it is self-authenticating. The best advice we can give to someone who is wondering whether the Bible is God's Word is, "Read it, and you'll find out." You'll discover a book by people you've never met, and yet who know you better than you know yourself. And you'll find them leading you straight to your loving Savior. That is finally the only "proof" that the Bible really needs.

Dead Sea Scrolls Milwaukee Public Museum Trip is in the works Our Ladies' Guild and Fellowship Committee are working together to plan a trip to the museum. They are suggesting Sunday, April 18th. Please look for more information in our upcoming Sunday bulletins or newsletters. Here's what the museum itself is promoting: *Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible: Ancient Artifacts, Timeless Treasures* brings together archaeological objects and manuscripts to tell a story 2,000 years in the making. Witness actual Dead Sea Scrolls and other early biblical artifacts. The largest temporary exhibit ever produced by the Milwaukee Public Museum, *Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible* explores the archaeological history of the Holy Land during the period the Scrolls were written, from the third century BC. through the first century AD. The exhibit also tracks the discovery of the first Scrolls and subsequent realization of their extraordinary significance.

Due to the interest in the Dead Sea scroll exhibit at the museum, many people have questions about them and their significance. Please see the Dead Sea Scrolls Q & A in our announcements for further information.

Winter Carnival held at St. Matthew's School on Saturday, February 20, 2010 from 10:00 am- 2:00 p.m.

Come to the Winter Carnival for some great family fun!

Bring your friends, family, neighbors and classmates for a day of fun at the Carnival. The Carnival will be held in the school gymnasium and lower grade classrooms. There will be carnival games, face painting, a cool prize booth, great items to bid on in our Silent Auction rooms, and much more! And remember to visit our wonderful Winter Café for great food and refreshments. We could use your help!

We are looking for the following donations:

Items for the Prize Booth- Unopened McDonald's Toys, "like new" stuffed animals, candy (Ring Pops, Air Heads, Laffy Taffy, mini candy bars)- no gum please.

Cakes for our Cake Walk Game- Any shape, size or flavor. The cakes can be dropped off Friday (February 19th) or Saturday in the school kitchen.

Silent Auction Items- Sports memorabilia, tickets to sporting events, movie baskets, sports baskets, services, homemade items, artwork, jewelry, gift certificates to area restaurants and stores.

Be sure to check regularly for an updated Silent Auction List in the school hallway or SMLS newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact Karla Lauersdorf at 262-853-7876. Thank you for supporting St. Matthews Lutheran School! With the generosity of our members, we are able to buy needed items for the school that benefit the children. Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you there!



Mid-week Lent Worship Begins February 17th – “We Preach Christ Crucified!”

Ash Wednesday begins our Lent walk to the cross and open tomb as we gather for worship and Lord's Supper on February 17th. The theme for our 6 mid-week Lent services, "We Preach Christ Crucified!" reflects the main reason Christ came into the world – to die for our sins and then rise again in victory that we might have eternal life. Each week we'll hear a lesson based on one of the letters of the apostles that reflects another facet of the overall theme. The messages will work the familiar Passion History people and events into each sermon so we can journey with Christ, view the wonders of His love on Good Friday, and rejoice anew in the victory over death and the grave on Easter Sunday. Midweek services begin Wednesday, February 17th, 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. with a fellowship supper served between the services, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

LENTEN DINNERS - We will again be serving Lenten dinners. With 2 church services we will start the serving at 5:00 p.m. Please bear with the groups if they are not quite ready at the end of the first service as church may get over earlier than 5:00 p.m. This is great fellowship and you don't have to cook or do dishes when you get home. The groups serving are as follows:

February 17th – Shepherd's Staff – hamburgers/hot dogs

February 24th - Early Childhood Ministries – lasagna

March 3rd – Choir/Handbells/Praise Team – to be announced

March 10th – Lutheran Boy Pioneers – chili and sandwich

March 17th – Lutheran Girl Pioneers – BBQ sandwiches

March 24th - ACTS group - Pizza Hut pizza and salad

April 4th – EASTER BREAKFAST - starts at 7 a.m. - Ladies Guild will serve the Easter breakfast.

This Week with Our Savior at St. Matthew's

Sunday, January 31, 2010

8:00am Communion Service
9:15am Adult/Teen Bible Study
9:15am Sunday Bible School
9:15am Fellowship
10:30am Communion Service
6:30pm Truth in Love Ministry Seminar

Monday, February 1, 2010

7:00pm Communion Service
8:00pm Bible Study

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

6:30am Bible Study (FR)
6:30pm LGP/Sunbeams
7:00pm Board of Stewardship
7:00pm LP Council Meeting at Slemin's
7:00pm Church Choir
8:00pm Rejoice!

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

8:00am Women in the Word
9:00am Preschool Power Hour
9:00am Bulletin Materials are due in the church office
10:00am Shorehaven Service
5:00pm Public School Catechism
6:00pm Easter for Kids Planning Meeting
7:00pm Board of Education

Thursday, February 4, 2010

6:30pm Men's Open Gym
6:45pm Julian Handbell Choir
7:00pm Board of Elders

Friday, February 5, 2010

8:00am Morning Chapel
5:00pm Away basketball games –vs- ES, Madison

Saturday, February 6, 2010 – B-Girls Juneau Basketball Tournament

10:00am Bible Information Class

Sunday, February 7, 2010 – New Member Welcome

8:00am Worship Service
9:15am Adult/Teen Bible Study
9:15am Sunday Bible School
9:15am Fellowship
10:30am Worship Service
4:30pm Super Bowl Sunday Get-Together