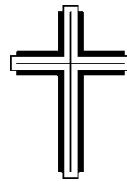


St. Matthew's Announcements
February 7, 2010



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.

Early Childhood Story Time Early Childhood Valentine's Day Story Time will be held on Thursday, February 11, 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. in the Preschool room. Children ages 2 to 4 years of age are invited to come with a parent or caregiver to hear a Bible story, listen to stories, and complete a craft. We will also have a light, nutritional snack. Bring a friend and join us for a fun evening together. Please refer any questions and RSVP to Laura Lai at 567-5396, ext. 46, or send an email to llai@smls.org.

Preschool Power Hour began this Wednesday There are still a few spaces open for this session of Power Hour, so register today! Power Hour is open to children ages 0-4. For more information 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 began 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

Join us this afternoon to watch the Super Bowl. We will begin 4:30 p.m. till the end of the 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

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 Our Ladies' Guild and Fellowship Committee have planned a trip to the Milwaukee Public Museum. We will view the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible exhibit on Sunday, **April 18th**. 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

We have made a reservation for 50 people to view the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit and will be able to enter the exhibit as a group. The plan is to leave the church at 12:30 and we will be entering the exhibit at 1:45, leaving at approximately 4:00-4:30 p.m.

The prices for the exhibit are as follows – all prices include \$5 for the bus and admission to the entire Museum on that day:

Adults \$29

Seniors (60+), Teens (13-17), College Students with ID \$27

Children (3-12) \$22

CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO: St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and turned in to the church office

A 45 minute audio tour can be purchased for \$5. Those can be purchased the day of the tour but are better ordered ahead of time to save time/confusion that day.

The IMAX feature Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs is being shown at 3:30 and also costs an additional \$5 – not included in above price. If you do choose to go to this, you will not be able to get back into the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit, but will be able to walk around the rest of the museum until the bus is ready to leave.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Fireside room.

Thank you donors for your "Priceless Gift" to the Blood Drive

We would like to thank all those that participated in our January 30th blood drive. We asked our people to give one more lifesaving "Priceless Gift" after the holidays.....**YOU RESPONDED!** We had a very successful drive and had automation maxed out for platelet and dual red donations. A 17 year old young man from our congregation responded and made a dual red cell donation. We had one member from our congregation and a member of the community donate in memory of a loved ones that passed away recently. Each one of these donations added up to life saving gifts. We are also very pleased that we currently are drawing increasing numbers of community people to our blood drives. This is not only beneficial for the Blood Center (which supply the blood to our local hospitals), but it gives us a means to introduce these people to St. Matthew's. How exciting is it that the people of St. Matthew's are reaching out in Christian love to people that need this life saving gift of blood!

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.

SCRIP – Next order is tomorrow – Monday, February 8th. To date our profit for the current school year is **\$1,383.00**. Thank you to everyone who is ordering this year! The money raised at St. Matthew’s is distributed - 25% to the tuition assistance fund and 75% to purchasing non-budgeted items.

Did you know??? The profit of your scrip order is tax deductible. At the bottom of your order blank the tax deductible amount you can claim will be indicated when you receive your order.

To order online:

1. Go to www.shopwithscrip.com
2. Select Family Sign Up – Create Account
3. You will need the organization enrollment code - 72FL455E6154
4. Follow the registration questions
5. Pay online – follow directions or by check – order on line, money to school office by date order is placed

Advantages of ordering online:

1. You will be able to deduct the total due from your checking or savings account electronically.
2. You don’t have to manually fill out the order form.
3. You don’t have to make sure to get your order in to the office.

If you do not feel comfortable with ordering online, we will continue with the paper method. An order form is included in this bulletin. However, we encourage you to check it out!

Any questions – please contact:

- Brenda Pillard - pillard5@sbcglobal.net 262-567-5329
- Dawn Lauterbach – lauterb@sbcglobal.net 262-313-7651
- Traci Sobsted – tracisobie@yahoo.com 262-565-3407
- Eric Ziel – eziel@smls.com 262-567-5396 X43

Lakeside Pops Concert this Sunday February 7th at 2 p.m. Also prior to that is a visual arts fair from all our elementary schools. We have several of our 7th and 8th grade students who have their art work entered.

This Week with Our Savior at St. Matthew's

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

Monday, February 8, 2010 – Spirit Week

- 8:00am SCRIP Orders Due
- 6:30pm LGP Council Meeting (FC)
- 7:00pm Worship Service
- 8:00pm Bible Study

Tuesday, February 9, 2010– Spirit Week

- 6:30am Bible Study (FR)
- 6:30pm LP Rec./Campers/Troopers Meeting Night
- 7:00pm Board of Trustees
- 6:30pm LP Buckaroos Pine Car Racing
- 7:00pm Church Choir
- 8:00pm Rejoice!

Wednesday, February 10, 2010– Spirit Week

- 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
- 4:00pm Public School Catechism

Thursday, February 11, 2010 – Spirit Week

- 5:30pm Board of Outreach
- 6:00pm Early Childhood Valentine's Day Story Time (preschool room)
- 6:30pm Men's Open Gym
- 6:45pm Julian Handbell Choir
- 7:00pm Church Council

Friday, February 12, 2010– Spirit Week

- 5:00pm Home basketball game –vs- Lebanon Lutheran

Saturday, February 13, 2010

- 8:00am Men's Bible Study/Fellowship Group (FC)
- 10:00am Bible Information Class
- 6:00pm LGP Valentine's Day

Sunday, February 14, 2010 – *Happy Valentine's Day!*

- 8:00am Communion Service
- 9:15am Adult/Teen Bible Study
- 9:15am Sunday Bible School
- 9:15am Fellowship
- 10:30am Communion Service