

Glad Tidings

from First German

Volume XVIII - Issue 5

May 2010

<i>Page 3</i> Ministry Acts Altar Guild	<i>Page 4</i> Treasurer's Report	<i>Page 5</i> Letter From Luther	<i>Page 6</i> Worship Committee
<i>Page 7</i> Stewardship Hmong News	<i>Page 8</i> Lutheran School	<i>Page 9</i> Evangelism Ladies Aid	<i>Page 10</i> Synod News
<i>Page 11</i> School Music	<i>Page 12</i> Church Picnic		

GRACIOUS GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same LORD. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

This time of year is filled with confirmations and graduations. Milestones are observed with a celebration of some kind. Whether the gathering is big or small, we take the time to honor a confirmand or a graduate and to rejoice with them on a festive occasion. We might even give a special gift to a confirmand or graduate as a simple way to note their milestone.

But while we are celebrating and writing out cards, God is doing something *greater*. God is giving gifts to us, his believers, his Church. Take for example, our ten confirmands this year. Ten precious teens (who already were gifts to us!) stand up before the congregation and confess their faith in Christ Jesus and their desire to receive Holy Communion. What

a gift God gives you and me! He reminds us that though we are the little flock, we are still *HIS* flock. We are the sheep of his pasture and he will not forget about us. God Most High continually brings new believers into the fold and continues to strengthen believers in Christ. He has shown us might, strength, and love in his one and only Son, Jesus. Death and the devil couldn't defeat him and that same God is at work for us.

For the rest of our days, we will continue to focus on his working in our lives. He is the one who gives us men and women every single day to work as part of the family of God. Graduations and confirmations recall God's grace in our lives, as he has lead us to confess him boldly and to grow in his Word. So, I would encourage you to take a moment and thank God for the gift of faith he's given you. Seek forgiveness for the times you've failed, but never forget how he has worked for you. Then, speak an encouraging word to a graduate of our congregation. Whether they are an elementary, high school, or college grad, wish them God's continued blessing.

There are also other gifts God freely gives to us. We are reminded of these gifts as Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary both observed graduations and ministry assignments during May. God's gracious gifts are the pastors and teachers he supplies for us and for our whole church body. Seventy-eight graduates of MLC received assignments into the teaching or staff ministry of our Synod on May 15th. Fifty-three pastoral candidates were also assigned to ministry from our Seminary on May 20th. These are more of God's gifts to us his Church on earth. Not only have we as a congregation been blessed, but we know the LORD is continuing the work of his kingdom in other places. Thank God for his gracious gifts!

Cordially in Christ,

Pastor Benjamin Schaefer

MINISTRY ACTS

New Members

† Timothy Schultz
Christopher, Matthew, Benjamin

Baptisms

† Anna June Anklam

Funerals

† Kristina Burke
† Edna Krueger
† Lucille Ellig
† Norma Mrozinski



ALTAR GUILD

Here is the schedule for communion helpers for the months of June and July. If you have any questions, give Mrs. Mrotek a call at 682-0839.

	<u>June</u>	<u>Set-Up</u>	<u>Clean-Up</u>
<u>Thursday</u>		Ray Luisier Don Carbon	Jean Fischer Kristy Schmidt
<u>Sunday</u>		Ray Luisier Don Carbon	Susie Menk Sue Pekarske
	<u>July</u>	<u>Set-Up</u>	<u>Clean-Up</u>
<u>Thursday</u>		Doug Owen Jennifer Owen	Marilyn Baryenbruch & Elaine Paschke - 7-8 Jill Schrimpf & Alayna Hronek - 7-22
<u>Sunday</u>		Doug Owen Jennifer Owen	Ginny Dill Gwen Polc

Communion Linens
Cynthia Nass for June & July



TREASURER'S REPORT

for the Month Ending April 30, 2010

Unified Budget Summary

	APRIL 2010 (Current Month)			JULY 2009 - APRIL 2010 (Fiscal Year to Date)		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Receipts	\$48,189	\$60,447	(\$12,258)	\$521,320	\$507,382	\$13,938
Expenses	\$65,693	\$58,671	\$7,021	\$570,550	\$580,163	(\$9,614)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$17,503)	\$1,776	(\$19,279)	(\$49,230)	(\$72,782)	\$23,552

Line of Credit (Bank Loan): The Line of Credit balance was **\$200,285**.

Building Fund: At the end of April, the Building Fund had a balance of **\$22,481**. There were no large expense items (over \$500) in April.

Memorial Trust Fund: Total bank balance: **\$46,534**. Of this amount, \$35,493 was designated and \$11,041 was undesignated. An additional \$35,102 of undesignated funds were borrowed to submit to WELS Kingdom Workers for the Hmong ministry. This amount will be returned with a 10% match added.

Capital Appeal: Total received to date: **\$152,224**. Bank balance: **\$2,188**.

Offerings: Weekly offerings for April averaged \$11,364; which was 1% LOWER than the same month last year, and 26% HIGHER than the same month 2 years ago.

	OFFERINGS PER WEEK			TOTAL OFFERINGS		
	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10
April	\$9,053	\$11,450	\$11,364	\$36,212	\$45,801	\$45,454
Total Fiscal Yr	\$10,753	\$10,523	\$10,501	\$473,146	\$452,504	\$451,524

Endowment Fund Balance: The endowment fund balance at the end of April, 2010 was \$380,733.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty Schaller, Treasurer

LETTER FROM LUTHER

Each month we have a snippet from Martin Luther, in which he reflects God's Word on a given topic. Our prayer is that these words from Luther will lead us to appreciate the rich heritage we have and to go forward with the confidence that comes from our Rock and our Redeemer, Christ.

Dear Christian brothers and sisters,

“God is amazing in his ways. He wants me to know Scripture and to be mighty in it. Yet he does not want me to rely on my achievements. Paul encouraged Timothy to study without ceasing. In the same way, Christ wants us to possess a wealth of Scripture knowledge in order to defeat false teaching and the devil. He wants learned men to preach, men who are equipped with Scripture and are able to contend mightily for God; yet, they are not to rely on their skill or wisdom, but the Holy Spirit is to teach them in the faith. Thus, the devil is checkmated! God wants to do this work. He alone gives faithful pastors and teachers to the Church. He alone gives every man his abilities. He wants to open our lips and give us a wisdom which all our adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. He is an amazing God. Therefore, we must become accustomed to this: God wants us to use external means and yet not depend on them. Thus here, too: He wants us to be well read in the Bible; yet we should carry out our work through his assistance. Everyone should be satisfied with this gift!”

In our Savior Christ Jesus,

Martin Luther

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We would like to thank everyone who came for the Koine church services or attended the concert. It was a joy to see so many people there. The witness of their faith in their actions, words, and music was an encouragement to all. Pictures of their performance will soon be on the music website at www.fgmusic.50webs.com. Be sure to ask the Lutheran elementary school students who the guest musician was at the Monday concert!

We hope that many of you will attend this year's church picnic. Our band will again lead worship for the hymns. If you know someone who plays an instrument, encourage them to join us in the band. The music is easy, and the more that join us, the better we'll sound.

If you or a group of people would like to sing or play instruments during one of our summer worship services, please let Mr. Menk know. He can provide extra music, listen to how it's going, and add you to an appropriate service schedule and when to play during the service. We hope that there will be many who can add to our worship. (Band and choral students, don't forget that you could use your state festival music if it's appropriate for worship.)

Make sure you thank Jordan Siegler, Naomi Schwark, and all of our organists for their work. As their schedules got busier, they kept right on playing their best, and we are grateful for it. We wish Jordan Siegler God's blessings as he heads off to college and thank him for fitting our worship schedule into his busy schedule. We look forward to having one more year with Naomi playing and for Daniel Rosenow who will join our 'ranks' later this year. What a great blessing to have such talented youth in our midst.

Darin Menk, Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP

“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:26-27

Hopefully everyone has noticed the ‘Helping Hands’ and ‘Greeter’ boards that are on the west wall across from the Little Lambs board. People who had circled ‘greeter’ on their Time and Talents sheet were called and informed of the board and how the process works. Thanks to everyone who has used their time to greet people on their way into church.

Summer is soon upon us (finally!). Please be careful in all you do and remember to keep Christ number one in all your activities.

Respectfully submitted,

*Greg Haupt, Director
Board for Stewardship*

HMONG NEWS

On May 3rd, the area pastors met at First German for Pastors’ Study Club. The study club began at 10:30 a.m. This month I have visited many unbelievers in Manitowoc and held prayers for members who were sick at home.

April 24th - 25th, we had a Bible workshop here at First German. Pastor Pheej Moua and his wife came from the Twin Cities. He taught us about having a Healthy Church, how to make our Church grow, and being active members. We had a total of 53 people attending our Bible workshop. Some came from Beautiful Savior Church in Green Bay, St. Paul Church in Appleton, and Calvary Church in Sheboygan. The Bible workshop was received well.

If we have a Bible workshop like this every single year, it will be good. It will strengthen the faith of our members and they will learn how to be more active.

Pastor Nau X. Lee

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

Dear friends in Christ,

We are at the end of another school year. I thank the Lord for the opportunity my children have had to have a Christ centered education. Bring your children up in the Lord and when they are old they will not turn from it. So now that summer vacation is here lets not take vacation from hearing His Word on a regular basis.

This is the will of God. “We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as Holy, and gladly hear and learn it.” God works through His Word to bring us the blessings of forgiveness and salvation. The Gospel is “the power of God unto salvation.” The school desires to train children for active service in the Lord’s Kingdom. Regular church (this includes during summer vacation) attendance is the basic element in a life of service to the Lord.

The teachers and the pastors daily stress to the children the importance of hearing God’s Word and of public worship. It will do our children no good to hear one thing in the school and see the exact opposite at home. You the parent are your children’s best teacher. So let us make every effort to attend services regularly with our children. In this way we will set a good example for our children and we all will be blessed through His Word.

Although our formal registration took place on the last two days of school, we are always open to someone who is interested in our school. If you know of someone who is looking for a safe environment and a quality education encourage them to call Mr. Leckwee at school, or ask if Mr. Leckwee can call them for a time to tour the school and see what we have to offer at First German Ev. Lutheran School. I know some people don't think about school till August, so let them know that we gladly accept students throughout the summer.

There are various projects to be done at our school this summer so either ask what you can do or if asked please consider it a pleasure to help get First German ready for the next school year. A few of the projects will be painting the outside basketball backboards, and replacing another backboard, and painting various rooms around the school. We have also chosen four dates as our **JANITOR HELPER DAY**. Anyone who can help Todd empty out a few rooms and replace the classroom items back into the rooms that are finished would be greatly appreciated. Mark your calendars for June 3rd, June 21st, July 7th, and July 13th. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and with a lot of help it won't take very long at all.

In Christ’s service,

*Allen Liermann, Director
Board for Lutheran School*

EVANGELISM

The Board for Evangelism exists to help our congregation build bridges to the Manitowoc community and to share the Gospel of Christ in meaningful ways (e.g. Bible Information Class). We are currently overseeing a new technology committee, which is looking at the many different opportunities for outreach found in our increasingly technological world. Our summer activities should provide a number of different ways **to help you** bring friends and acquaintances to know First German—and, God willing, to know their Savior Jesus.

Recent Activities

1. At the last “Ladies Craft Night” some women put together “Thank You” bags for visitors. If there are any visitors who sign our Friendship Registers, we will deliver to their home a gift to convey the message: “Thanks for worshiping with us. Come back any time!” The gift includes a mug, a water bottle, a pen, and Christian bookmarks. Thank you, ladies, for your help.
2. On Saturday, May 15th a few members of First German canvassed our neighborhood. We asked our neighbors a few simple questions and got to know a little about who they are and what they think. More canvassing will come and I hope more members will join us!

Respectfully submitted,

*Ron Ronski, Director
Board for Evangelism*

LADIES AID

We went again this year to CNC Links for our anniversary dinner. Wonderfully good food. Everyone really enjoyed it. 10 people were the lucky recipients of geranium plants donated by Armilla Mrotek. Ladies Aid will not meet now until September 9th. We would like to invite all ladies from the congregation to join us.

Marion Thiel, President

SYNOD NEWS

New WELS Mission in Colorado

Rev. Jared Oldenburg, currently pastor at Light of Life, Covington, Washington, has accepted the call to open a new home mission in Castle Rock, Colorado. This is WELS’ first new home mission opening since 2008. Oldenburg, a 2002 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin, spent his vicar year serving Lord of Life, Thornton, Colorado, as part of the Vicar in Mission Settings program. His assignment following graduation was to establish a new mission in Covington, Washington. Light of Life began worship services in November 2003 and has grown to 90 communicant members, who now support a thriving preschool.

“Things are comfortable for me in Washington,” Oldenburg says. “However, Jesus does not call any of us to ‘take up our comfort’ and follow him. Instead we are called to deny ourselves—and sometimes that means leaving what is comfortable and using the gifts God has given us to expand his kingdom through the gospel.” He adds, “That is exciting—to know we are leaving what we know to meet new people—to become part of a new community and learn their unique culture, to work with fellow believers who too are excited about changing lives with the changeless gospel.”

Oldenburg will work with a core group of WELS members in Castle Rock and surrounding areas who are eager to share the gospel with their friends and neighbors. Oldenburg and his wife, Aimee, recently made a trip to Colorado to meet with some of the possible core families and with the district mission board and mission counselor. After Oldenburg is commissioned for his new call on July 18th, he says that his first task will be to earn the respect and trust of the core group so that he can work with them to really understand the culture and become part of the community. After those foundations are laid, the group can begin holding worship services.

SCHOOL MUSIC

Thank you to all of the students who did so well at this year's music show. It is a blessing to see all of those God-given talents put to such good use. Thank you also to the parents, grandparents, and friends who came to see us. It's always more fun when we have an audience.

Any student who plays a band instrument is welcome to join us in playing the hymns for this year's church picnic service. We will have a short practice before the service at Silver Creek Park. Please bring a chair, your music, and some clothes pins to the 9:30 a.m. rehearsal. If the weather doesn't permit us to play at the park, we will still play during the service at the church. Thank you for your efforts to make the church picnic special.

Mr. Menk's summer workshop for WELS teachers is June 14th & 15th. This year twelve people have registered. Thank you to First German for allowing the workshop to happen at our school and for allowing the teachers to use the instruments and resources available. Without these resources, our students and these teachers would have a difficult time learning the skills taught.

If you have a slightly used instrument that you or your family are not using, consider donating it to one of our school students who can't afford one. These students and their family would cover the cost of any updating or repairs. Then the instrument would get some use once again. If you want the instrument back after they are done with lessons, you could simply work that out with the family. Give it a thought. It is frustrating to see the cost of an instrument keeping students from joining our band program.

*Darin Menk, Director
Church and School Music*



ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, June 13, 2010

Silver Creek Park

(at church if weather is bad)

**Worship Service in the park at 10:00 a.m.
English & Hmong Worship Services In Separate Areas**

(bring a chair or blanket to sit on)

Band will play for the worship service

Dinner: (serving will begin shortly after the worship service)

Hamburgers	..... \$1.00	Bratwurst	..... \$1.00	Hot Dogs	..... \$1.00
Cheeseburgers	..... \$1.25	Egg Rolls	..... \$1.00	Desserts & Pies	..... \$1.00
Ice-cream	..... 25¢	Coffee, Milk, Soda	..... 25¢	Bottled Water	..... 50¢

Cold Potato Salad & Baked Beans (prepared by the Evening Circle)

Enjoy Your Meal and Stay For the Activities

Activities:

Children's Fish Pond — Noon-1:00 p.m.

Softball Game — 2:00 p.m.

Bounce House — 1:00 p.m.

Children's Games — 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Bingo — 2:00 p.m.

Frisbee Golf is also available

Help is needed

- ★ to haul items to the park and set up beginning about 6:30 a.m.
- ★ in the food and dessert stand, at the fish pond and with the children's games.
- ★ to clean-up and transport items back to church at the end of the day
- ★ ***To volunteer your assistance sign up on the sheets in the church lobby.***
- ★ feel free to jump in and help at any time.

Bring the whole family. Invite your friends. All are welcome.