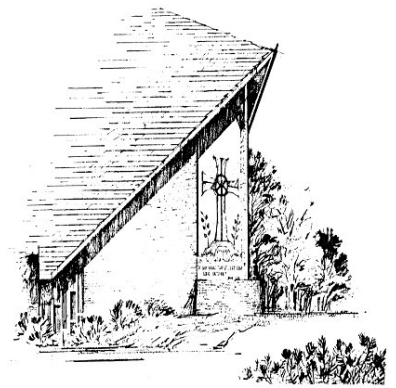


# St. Matthew's NEWS



May, 2010

## "Which Would You Prefer – A Room or a Mansion?"

In John 14:2, Jesus told his disciples, "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you."

"Is it a room or a mansion?" On more than several occasions, my mom has asked that question referring to this passage. "The NIV translation says, 'rooms' while the King James Version says 'mansions,' so which is it? I'd like to know if I will have a room or a mansion in heaven," she says. Well, in answer to her question, it's both.

She prefers the King James Version of "mansion," thinking that better describes how wonderful it will be. Many others feel the same, and rightly so. Except for the glimpses of heaven we're given in the Bible, it is truly too glorious for us to comprehend. After all, we're used to living in a sinful world, and struggling with that sin day after day. But Jesus, by living for us, dying in our place and rising again, has won for us an eternity in this perfect place. Going from this world into heaven will truly be the upgrade of upgrades for us who trust in him for salvation.

But isn't there a wonderful truth also conveyed by the word, "room"? A room is personal, it's intimate. Whether that room is a bedroom, an office or a man-cave, it's a place made just for you. Jesus said, "I'm going there to prepare a place for you." Here we put signs on doors to let others know to whose room that door leads. In the same way, Jesus is putting a sign on the door to your room in heaven. It's a place he's preparing just for you.

It's true that many people mark Christmas and Easter as the big celebrations of what Jesus has done for us. But let's not forget about his Ascension back into heaven. We have tremendous comfort and hope in this verse because Jesus ascended back into heaven. Ascension means that Jesus' work of redeeming us has been finished, that our salvation from sin and death is done. It means that because of that salvation, he will come back to take us there.

So which do you prefer? A mansion or a room? Thanks to Jesus, we get both.

In His service together with all of you,  
Vicar Jordan Ertl

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### **Worship times**

Sundays 8 & 10:30 a.m.

Mondays 6:30 p.m.

### **Sunday School & Bible Class**

Sundays 9:15 a.m.

### **Newsletter Deadline:**

To Be Announced

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## Pastor's Notes

### New Sunday Morning Bible Class

Beginning on *Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>*, Pastor Lindner will lead us in a special doctrinal study of God's Word entitled:

#### "GOD'S PROVIDENCE"

There's a shorter word to be found inside the word "providence." It's the word "provide". God's providence is simply the teaching that God provides for his entire creation. That means he provides for all our needs, protects us in all situations, and directs our steps.

How long does God's providence last? What is the scope of his providence? What is the Lord's involvement in world events? Does he ever use secondary causes to carry out His providence? What is the relationship between God's providence and the evil which may occur in a Christian's life? Does everything happen as God has determined according to a fixed plan or are we able to shape the future by what we do in the present? What is God's rule in determining the length of people's lives? Can God change his mind on the length of peoples' lives? What part do we play in lengthening or shortening our lives?

These are just a few of many questions we will consider in this Scriptural study. Please join us.

### Confirmation 2010

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, 15 of our Christian young people stood before the altar of the Lord Jesus and promise their lifelong devotion and faithfulness to him. This year's confirmation class is:

Ally Austin	Justin LaMoore
Elly Fanning	Nicholas Langer
Claire Fox	Trent Leffel
Bethany Gragg	Troy Moensch
A.J. Grefsheim	Kaitlyn Sage
Allison Hickstein	Alex Schroeder
Colin Hirsch	Elizabeth Schwartz
Martha Holtz	

Please keep these Christian young people in your daily prayers. Offer each of them your own personal words of loving encouragement as they take up their places as communicant members of our Christian family here at St. Matthew's. May our Savior keep them always in his tender care! May the Holy Spirit who has given them the gift of faith continue to nurture his gift through a lifetime of closeness to Word and Sacrament!

May they be a blessing to Jesus and to his Church until he calls them home to heaven!

We also have a number of our Christian young men and ladies who are graduating from high school and college. We join with them in thanking the Savior for bringing them to this milestone in their lives. May he continue to bless them and use them to be a blessing to his Kingdom!

### A Special Time of Year for the WELS

This is the time of year when Jesus reminds us how he has so richly blessed our church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, with his gift of new, eager, and Biblically sound pastors and teachers.

79 graduates from Martin Luther College received their first call into the teaching ministry during a special worship service on the MLC campus on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. 19 other graduates will be involved in international service in China, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. Lord willing, this week at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary over 40 pastoral candidates will receive their first call into the preaching ministry during a special worship service on the Seminary campus on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. Two days before that 33 men will receive their vicar assignments – a year in their seminary training when they serve under an experienced pastor in one of our WELS congregations. The vicar assignment service will held on *Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM.*

This year's Assignment Day is especially exciting for St. Matthew's. Once again our congregation will be blessed to have a vicar in our midst for 2010-11. We have yet another positive opportunity to add to all the other ones our gracious Lord Jesus continues to give our St. Matthew's family to carry out Gospel ministry in his name! May all of us support this positive blessing not only with our generous offerings to the Challenge Fund, but with the personal encouragement we give to this young man, whoever he may be. He will arrive in our midst in early August. He will need to find a place to live for his vicar year. If anyone knows of some housing opportunity that might be available to him in August, please contact Pastor Lindner.

## Staff Minister's Notes

### Bible Studies

#### Tuesday evenings

Our Tuesday evening Bible study group, 6:30 – 7:30pm, has now started a special summer study based on “Very Important Chapters” of the Old Testament. The following are listed the group of study chapters (one or two chapters per evening) for the first part of summer:

Gen. 1	Creation
Gen. 2	Marriage
Gen. 3	The Fall into Sin
Gen. 4	Cain & Abel
Gen. 6-9	The Flood
Gen. 11	The Tower of Babel

Other chapters that follow will always be announced in the church bulletin. You can start at any time and being gone for a vacation or any other reason will not matter as to the weed-to-week studies. JUST COME!

#### Saturday Morning Men's

The Saturday Men's Bible study group, 7:30 – 8:30am, will be wrapping up our in-depth study of Civil Government as based on Scripture. We will conclude with a study and discussion of “Current Problems in Church/State Relations”. Following this study we will begin “19 Minutes with Luther”, which consists of a series of reviews of Luther's Small Catechism. COME! ENJOY! GROW! Start at any time. There is a bonus connected with the men's group. We enjoy breakfast together once a month either with our own group or together with the Peace Lutheran men's group. We will be meeting with Peace on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 8am at the Riverside Restaurant. You are invited!

#### Church Picnic—Aug. 8

You can also note that the church picnic will be August 8<sup>th</sup> at Peace Park.



#### Painters needed

This summer we will be painting the Kindergarten classroom, Mustang Café, Library and Church office's washrooms. Tentative dates are **June 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**. Look for a sign up sheet on the church bulletin board. Many hands make the job lighter. If weekdays or night work better for you please call Ken Wisniewski at 741-1128.



### Summer Sunday School

There is still a need for several teachers for the summer months so that we have at least two teachers for each of the three groups; primary, middle & upper. Please give this your serious consideration to serve the congregation. Call Staff Minister Arden at 758-4693, or sign-up on the sheet on the church hallway bulletin board. Time is short! The following is our general schedule of lessons, each theme illustrated for the students with an appropriate Bible lesson.

- June 6 – July 11 “How We Worship Jesus”
- July 18 – Aug. 29 “How We Serve Jesus”

Sub-teachers can be arranged for times when you would have to be gone on a Sunday. One prep meeting for each half of the summer lessons will be called for coordination. We do need an individual to serve as the Student Director to coordinate the lessons.

### Advance Notice

#### VBS—Aug. 2 - 6

St. Matthew's Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of August 2 – 6. Details, sign-ups, etc. will be coming in June. Please watch for this and prepare to get involved in this great evangelism effort in our community.

Our theme this year is “Saddle Up, Partners”. The crafts, snacks and games reflect the “Out West” Theme, and the lessons connect the families with God's saving Word. Biblically sound and gospel focused, these lessons will draw the youngsters, ages 3 to 12 closer to Jesus.

We will need six or more teachers and leaders for the areas of music, crafts, games, registration and refreshments. If you are ready now to get involved as a teacher or leader, please speak to Staff Minister Arden (758-4693) and we can start early planning. Please note that we will need many, many more helpers in all areas. REMEMBER – sign up sheets coming in June.

### Mrs. Ottenbacher's Retirement

On Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, at the 10:30am service we will thank God for the blessing of His servant, Mrs. Linda Ottenbacher (40 years of service in the ministry) who is retiring. A potluck will follow the service. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the church narthex. **Please sign up for a hot dish or salad.** A special box will be placed in the narthex for cards of appreciation and thankfulness.

**L W M S**  
**(Lutheran Women's**  
**Missionary Society)**

**Spring Rally Highlights**

LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) Rock River Circuit

Spring Rally, Sunday, April 25, 2010

Pastor Koschnitzke opened the rally with a scripture from John, chapter 10, which relates to Jesus as our Good Shepherd. We sang the hymn "Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ," Hymn #401.

Rally Theme: "God Works in Amazing Ways"

Speaker: Pastor Thomas Engelbrecht,

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church,  
Roscoe, IL

The church was started in 1998 as a daughter church of Peace, Loves Park, IL

In 2002 Amazing Grace was formed. In 2006 they had no pastor, only a vicar.

Pastor Engelbrecht was called there from the Seminary in 2008. A grant was given to the church to help support a pastor. Worship is held in a cafeteria of a local school. There are differences of culture, some are long-time Lutherans and some don't know Jesus. The similarity is preaching the Word of God and Christ crucified to all.

Meetings are held in the parsonage however they are trying to connect to the community by meeting at coffee shops, the library, attending Chamber of Commerce meetings, and local events such as fairs, expos, and blood drives.

Events are hosted for Easter and Christmas for kids. Canvassing is done door to door, phoning and mass mailing.

Their membership is 95 with an average of 45 attending services. They have 17 acres of property for future building on about 5 acres of that property.

Amazing things are happening at Amazing Grace. PRAY FOR THEM!

Business Meeting: Total attendance was 88. Working Fund Collection \$580.30

Mission Box Spring Offering \$4,456.91

New Mission Box projects for 2010-2011 are *Multi-Language Publications Project* and *Outreach Assistance for Small Campus Ministries*.

Election of officers also took place.

Announcements were made regarding National Convention, which is June 24-27, 2010 in St. Louis and also Fall 2010 Rally to be held at Peace Lutheran, Janesville, on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Closing Service included installation of newly elected officers by Pastor Lance Hoff from St. Peter's, Helenville. He used for our closing meditation Hymn #778 (CW) "How Shall They Hear, Who Have Not Heard" and explained the four ingredients for mission work.

**LWMS Prayer Calendar**

A Missionary prayer calendar has been placed at the ramp bulletin board for you to read monthly. A different missionary family is featured each month along with prayer ideas for our mission fields. If you haven't taken notice please take a few minutes to read and get ideas for monthly prayers. Extra copies of a Mission Prayer are also available. Please take one.

## School Whiteboard

### Enrolling For The 2010 – 2011 School Year

We have begun looking at class sizes for the coming school year. In order to help us plan for books and supplies; we will need to get a precise count. If you plan to send your child to school here at St. Matthew's next year – there is nothing you need to do. You will be automatically preregistered for the 2010-2011 school year. If you have children in school that will not be returning next year (8<sup>th</sup> grade excluded) please make that known to either your child's teacher or to Mr. Proeber as soon as possible.

We appreciate your help in this matter, as we will begin ordering books and supplies for next year very soon.

### School Fees for Next Year



The school fees for next year are as follows. The fee for the first child will be \$550, the second child will be \$475 and the third child will be \$450. The cost of tuition for the first child in grades K-8 will be \$2,900.00.

The cost of tuition for the second or third child in school will be \$2,700.00. If you are a member of St. Matthew's please remember this in your weekly offerings to the Lord. The tuition for non-WELS members will be \$3,000.00. The second or third child will be \$2,800.00.

Four year-old-preschool next year will be held three days a week. (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday) from 12:30-3:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$50.00. The tuition for the year will be \$960.00 or \$240.00 per quarter.

Three year-old-preschool will be held on Tuesday & Thursday from 12:30-3:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$50.00. The tuition for the year will be \$720.00 or \$180.00 per quarter.

### Graduation Service

Our Graduation Service will be held on **Thursday, May 27 at 6:30 p.m.** Pre 4 yr. olds thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be singing as well as our Junior Choir. If your child will not be attending please let us know by written note or a phone call. After the service the children will meet in their classrooms to receive their report cards.



### Last Day Of School

The last day of school will be held on **Thursday, May 27.** Our school picnic will be held at 10:30 a.m. The students eat free. All others who wish to dine with us will be charged \$2.50. Ribbons from the school track meet will also be distributed. Children will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. The children should be picked up immediately after school. There will be a faculty/8th grade softball game at noon.



### Congratulations to Our Eighth Graders

Congratulations to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders as they go on to high school. May God go with them throughout their life. We wish all our children a blessed summer season and look forward to their return in August.



### Campbell's Update Labels/Boxtops (Labels Across America)

Please note we need to send in the UPC symbols instead of the front panels from Campbell's products. Please save only the UPC portion of the label. Thank you for your continued support in saving labels for our school.



Labels are collected on a regular basis in each classroom. In order for the classrooms to get credit for their labels they must be placed in the container provided in EACH CLASSROOM. This also includes all box tops, receipts, and milk tops.

**TREATS ARE NEEDED** – If you would like to donate a treat for the classroom prizes, please drop off at the church office. Thank you!

The winners for the 2009/2010 label collection are the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Mr. Proeber's room. Congratulations! **Keep saving your labels over the summer for next year's competition.**

Labels collected so far for April are as follows:

Collected/Total	Collected/Total
Pre. & K – 1232 / 3342	4 & 5 – 428 / 4871
1 & 2 – 134 / 1969	5 & 6 – 1053 / 7427
3 – 98 / 2547	7 & 8 – 567/4057

