

THE GOOD NEWS

August 2014

At St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Fall River, Wisconsin & St. John's Lutheran Church, Doylestown, Wisconsin
Pastor James Bolda pastorstjohnststephens@gmail.com ststephensfallriver.org (920)484-3991; (920)296-3822 (cell)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

On Sunday Aug 24th, we will have VBS for children and friends from both congregations.

We will meet at 10:45 am at St. Stephens's fellowship hall.

After something to eat, our VBS this year will proceed with a walk up to Lazy Lake by the dam. We will pretend that Lazy Lake is the Sea of Galilee. We will tell some stories of Jesus's life and ministry by the Sea. After returning to the fellowship hall, we will do some crafts and activities until we finish between 12:30 & 12:45 pm.

**Help is needed!
Please talk with Pastor if you can help out.**

Thank you.

Church members, please ponder your church's mission and needs throughout the entire year, including summer, and offer your prayers and support faithfully for the ministry of the gospel. Please take to heart the article in your church mailboxes entitled "Loyalty."

If we don't see you soon, do not be surprised if Pastor, council members and church members deliver your church mailbox items to you at your door, while encouraging you to please return to worship soon. May the Lord move all of us to work hard to keep our churches strong so we may continue to share the gospel in our communities.

Our summer sermon series is entitled: WHO AM I? Each week has been an enjoyable personal challenge for everyone in the pews. It has been an interesting challenge for the congregations as everyone pays close attention, listening as the sermon proceeds with one hint or clue to another, as everyone tries to figure out the bible figure from the descriptions. Each week is another opportunity to learn some details about someone special "touched by the gospel of our Lord" from the New Testament era. We hope you not only learn more about each "real life" person, but also take some application thoughts from this person's life into your everyday living.

What can you say to someone who says: "You know what Pastor, I am just too busy. Especially in summer. Someday I'll get around to coming back to church. My life is just too busy right now."

Life is a rat-race more than ever. So, in a way, I understand. Let me ask you to think about an answer to this question: When aren't you too busy for church? Any weeks? Any months? Any season of the year?

You see, there is someone keeping you away from God, His Word, His gospel message, and keeping you from worship. It's Satan. He will see to it that you do not get to church to worship because of your busy schedule. It is the devil's way of messing up your life, your faith, your trust, your recognition of right and wrong, and more.

What if Jesus was too busy to come down here to earth to live as our Savior from sin? What if He had not made time to come here so He could be the ransom price for your sins and mine? What if God didn't make the time to inspire the writers of His Holy Word to give us His truths?

Jesus was in fact very busy fulfilling his mission, winning our forgiveness and gaining the gift of eternal life for us. He took time for every one of us. And we can't take time for Him? Well, thing is, each of us will have to answer to God personally for our sins. Are you really prepared to tell him, when you finish your life on earth, "Lord, I was too busy for you?" What do you think will happen to you eternally?

Audra Ashley Weisensel was born to Megan and Julius Weisensel and baptized in the hospital. At a later date there will be an affirmation of baptism at St. Stephen's. All are doing great. God's blessings to you!

Kay Louise Michael McGee, born last month to Tabatha, will be baptized August 10th. God's blessings to you!

PRAYERS:

Please pray for Jordan Scott and the Scott family from St. John's in this difficult time.

Pray also for Donna Dowdell who is hospitalized.

We offer prayer of thanks and continued return to health for Dwight Marshall.

If you have any special prayer requests for church and/or the newsletter, see Pastor.

St. John's Ladies of the Lord is spearheading the plans for an Ice Cream Social with delicious food and desert from 3pm to 6:30pm on August 17th. Very special thanks to Randy and Rhonda Minick for allowing us to have the ice cream social at their place at W2312 US Highway 16. Can you please help? Call Betty Oehlert or another member of the "Ladies of the Lord" if you can help.

All are invited to an open house celebration honoring Carla Borde's 80th birthday. It will be held on Sunday August 17th 2014 from 2 to 4pm in the fellowship hall At St. Stephens in Fall River. Everyone is welcome. No gifts please.

Columbia County Fair Booth - Opportunities for church members to help share information on our WELS Churches. See the sign-up sheet in back of our churches.

Jesus is...Alpha and Omega

Revelation 1:8

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God,
"who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."*

It's a growing trend for business to incorporate subliminal messages in their logos. A close look at the FedEx logo reveals an arrow signifying that FedEx is going somewhere. The Tostitos logo has the figures of two people dipping a chip in salsa. The Amazon logo has a smile connecting the letters A and Z in its name to indicate that you can find anything on their site from soup to nuts or should we say from A to Z. And when you look at their website, you can find just about anything you could ever imagine.

It's interesting then that no less than three times in the book of Revelation, Jesus reveals himself as the Alpha and the Omega. One such time is in chapter 1 verse 8 where we read, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last letter. In other words, he is our A to Z. He is everything we need.

He meets our greatest need for forgiveness of sins with his own perfect life and subsequent suffering and death. He gives us faith to receive that forgiveness and all of the other blessings he connects to it, including salvation and eternal life. We can't earn his forgiveness. We can't go online to Amazon and buy it. Jesus simply gives it to us as a gift of his love.

From the beginning of our life to the end, he promises to be with us always. In times of trial and frustration, he supports and strengthens us. In grief and pain, he comforts us. With times of joy, he blesses us. And he promises to meet all our needs for food and clothes and shelter and companionship. We don't have to wonder if he can or will. There's no search bar where we have to type in the keywords of a product we're looking for. Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, promises in his Word to supply all that we could possibly need, in this life and in the next in heaven.

~ St. John's(J) and St. Stephen's(S) Lutheran Churches ~ August 2014 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:15 am Worship(J) 9:45 am Worship(S)	4	5	6	7 7:30 pm Joint Churches Worship w/Comm (S)	8	9
10 8:15 am Worship w/com(J) 9:45 am Worship w/com(S)	11	12	13	14 7:30 pm Joint Churches Worship (S)	15	16
17 8:15 am Worship(J) 9:45 am Worship(S) 10:45 am VBS Meeting(S)	18	19	20	21 7:30 pm Joint Churches Worship (S)	22	23
24 8:15 am Worship(J) 9:45 am Worship(S) 10:45 am - 12:45 pm Combined Churches Vacation Bible School(S)	25	26 7:00 pm St. John's & St. Stephen's Sunday School Teachers Meeting(S)	27	28 7:30 pm Joint Churches Worship w/Comm (S)	29	30
31 8:15 am Worship w/com(J) 9:45 am Worship w/com(S)	Notes:					
Combined Churches Vacation Bible School at St. Stephen's - August 24th 10:45 am - 12:45 pm						

St. Stephen's Ushers: August 3rd & 10th: J.D. Leisemann, Butch Leisemann, Jace Bolda & Dan Koch
August 17th & 24th: Randy Randall, Chris Randall, George Randall, Todd Huggett & Nathan Rockweiler
August 31st & September 7th: Troy Sauer, Jamie McGee, Ken Dickerson, Jayson Selje & Mark Schultz
September 14th & 21st: Russ Krakow, Del Foulkes, Nick Posthuma, Trent Trieloff & Hunter Trieloff
September 28th & October 5th: Phil Oehlert, Dan Oehlert, Mike Wodill & Eugene Wodill