

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)

SPECIAL GUEST PREACHER

at our congregations
Sunday, January
18th. Be sure to be
in attendance.
Pastor Matthew
Crass, the
PRESIDENT of
Luther Preparatory
School in
Watertown, WI
will be with us.

ANNUAL MEETINGS:

St. John's Annual
Meeting:
Will be held Monday,
January 26th at
6:30pm.

St. Stephen's
Annual Meeting:
Will be held in the
church on Sunday,
February 8th after a
shortened church
service.

*HAVE A
BLESSED
NEW
YEAR!*

Fair Questions – Honest Answers

I'm not perfect; I make mistakes. So what?

In 2013, the Florida State Seminoles were celebrated as college football's BCS Champions after completing a perfect 14-0 season. In the 135 year history of Major League Baseball, only 23 pitchers have tossed a perfect game. Each of those 23 pitchers is widely celebrated for accomplishing one of baseball's rarest individual feats. In 2009, USA Today reported that a Michigan teen got a perfect score on her ACT—and her SAT—and her PSAT! She was rewarded with a full-ride scholarship to Princeton University.

If perfection is so celebrated because of its rarity, should the opposite be true as well? Should imperfection be condemned? I mean, if perfection is considered the rarest of all feats, shouldn't it be considered acceptable if the rest of us don't achieve such a vaunted status? Nobody's perfect at life! We all make mistakes. Who cares?

God cares. While imperfections are an accepted part of life for us, they are not acceptable to our God. Imperfections run contrary to the way God intended this world to function. When he finished his work of creation, God was pleased to know that everything worked in harmony. There were no imperfections; "Go*d saw all that he made and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

Our imperfections are therefore an offense to our perfect creator God. They are not excused; they are not overlooked. They are punished for the offense that they are.

Sure, nobody's perfect. That's why we need someone to be perfect for us.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Yes, Jesus Christ who had no sin or imperfection became our imperfection so that he might receive all of the punishment that we deserved, paying for it all by his death on the cross. In return, he grants us the perfection that we could not achieve on our own. In Christ we become "the righteousness of God."

As much as we celebrate individual accomplishments of perfection—the perfect season, the perfect game, or the perfect test score—how much greater can we celebrate the perfection that is ours by faith in Jesus Christ! In Christ you are perfect; believe it! Celebrate it! Live it!

For more Questions & Answers, go to www.WhatAboutJesus.com, then *Questioning God*.

MAY GOD BLESS YOUR CONGREGATIONS IN 2015!

**What can you do for your congregation of fellow believers
in the twelve months that lie ahead?**

Think about that.

What can you do for St. Stephen's and St. John's this year?

1. Pray for your congregation and pray for continued blessings on the ministry of the Word of God. Pray for your fellow members. Thank God in your prayers for a place to worship, serve and honor Him.
2. Support your congregation by attending worship service regularly. The churches need the encouragement of your faithful presence at worship. It is the sinful nature that prompts you to think you do not need to worship faithfully and it is the sinful nature that prompts you to think your fellow members do not need you to be in the pews for your sake, your families sakes, and your congregations sake, and for the ministry of the gospel that we undertake TOGETHER.
3. Offer to do things for your church. We can easily take much for granted. Instead of letting the few do so much work at church, it's time for more members to serve the Lord's congregation of believers, doing more for the congregations support. We need your help, your interest, your service. Please!
4. Support your congregation and synod with your offerings. Less people in church less often means less and less financial support. Much less, in some months, as a matter of fact. Please don't forget about our budget needs. We need your help very much so that our small congregations can keep our ministry going.
5. Encourage one another personally to be in church and encourage one another to invite your friends to come along with you to church. We need the rich gospel news of Jesus. All of us do! Regularly.

Written copies of two recent topical BIBLE STUDIES by Pastor are available. The bible study passages reveal how very far off the world has become on two moral issues. The topics: Living Together (outside marriage) and Homosexuality. It's good to know exactly what God says in a world that has no clue. Perhaps you can pass on the study as a matter of concern for those you know who no longer believe (or recall) what God specifically says.

LWMS handouts in back of church: Missionary Flunkers latest letter from Brazil; LWMS January Newsletter. Special thanks to Gertrude Stilson for providing this information for us!

**~ St. John's(J) and St. Stephen's(S) Lutheran Churches
~ January 2015 ~**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:15 am Worship(J) 9:15 am Kids for Christ(J) 9:45 am Worship(S) 10:45 am Kids for Christ(S)	5	6	7 3:30 pm Combined Churches 5 th & 6 th gr Bible History Class(S) 6:30 - 7:30 pm Combined Churches 7 th & 8 th gr Catechism Class(S)	8 6:30pm Joint Churches Bible Class (S) 7:30 pm Joint Churches Worship w/comm(S)	9	10
11 8:15 am Worship w/com(J) 9:15 am Kids for Christ(J) 9:45 am Worship w/com(S) 10:45 am Kids for Christ(S)	12	13	14 6:30 - 7:30 pm Combined Churches 7 th & 8 th gr Catechism Class(S)	15 6:30pm Joint Churches Bible Class (S) 7:30 pm Joint Churches Worship (S)	16	17
18 8:15 am Worship(J) 9:15 am Kids for Christ(J) 9:45 am Worship(S) 10:45 am Kids for Christ(S) Guest Preacher Pastor Grass	19	20 6:30 pm Elders' Mtg (S)	21 3:30 pm Combined Churches 5 th & 6 th gr Bible History Class(S) 6:30 - 7:30 pm Combined Churches 7 th & 8 th gr Catechism Class(S)	22 6:30pm Joint Churches Bible Class (S) 7:30 pm Joint Churches Worship w/comm (S)	23	24
25 8:15 am Worship w/com(J) 9:15 am Kids for Christ(J) 9:45 am Worship w/com(S) 10:45 am Kids for Christ(S)	26 6:30 pm St. John's Annual Voters' Meeting	27	28 6:30 - 7:30 pm Combined Churches 7 th & 8 th gr Catechism Class(J)	29 6:30pm Joint Churches Bible Class (S) 7:30 pm Joint Churches Worship (S)	30	31

St. Stephen's Ushers: Jan 4th & 11th: Phil Oehlert, Dan Oehlert, Mike Wodill & Eugene Wodill
 Jan 18th & Jan 25th: Andy Schumann, Nick Schumann, Leroy Yohn, Robert Fredenberg & Wesley Bernath
 Feb 1st & Feb 8th: Russ Berndt, Gary Waterworth, Dave Ashley & Charles Dunning
 Feb 15th & Feb 22nd: Gene Adam, John Kehl, Billy Kehl, Jim Yohn & Mike Dykstra