

Jesus is Miraculous **He Calms Our Fears**

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"... Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him (Luke 5:8,10,11).



Simon Peter and his friends were fishermen when they first knew Jesus. After a long night of catching nothing, they were ready to call it quits. But Jesus told them to put out their nets in the deep water. It was now the hottest and brightest part of the day. A catch of fish seemed even less likely at this point.

The miraculous catch Jesus gave them ripped their nets and caused their boats to sink! Immediately, Peter realized that this wasn't just another teacher, but the Son of God.

When Peter saw God's power that day, he was filled with fear. More than ever, he felt the big difference between God and himself. He was a sinner and God was not. He was entirely at God's mercy.

Maybe it was a huge thunderstorm or the power of crashing waves that first made you realize how big God is and how small you are.

When we see the awesome wonders of God in this world, sometimes we feel the same way Peter did. Sometimes we conclude that we need to distance ourselves from God because of our sin. He is perfect and we are not. The Bible tells us that God has every right to punish us for all of eternity because of our sin. All of this strikes fear in our hearts.

Jesus' powerful miracles had this same effect on people. But at the same time, his miracles draw our attention to an important fact about our powerful God: he is here to save us. Jesus calms our fears.

Jesus told Peter, "Do not be

afraid..." As God's Son, he wasn't there to harm Peter. He was there to save him, and that is just what he did when he died on the cross and rose again.

Jesus' words calm our fears as sinners before a holy God. Now, we don't need to cry, "Away from me, Lord, for I am a sinner!" Instead, in the peace of his forgiveness, we can take the time to set down the nets of our daily work and follow him to something greater in his Word.

What does it mean to be a fisher of men? Come and find out. We would love to share that hope with you.

*Reprinted from our synod's
Outreach Newsletter*

Come and experience God's forgiving love with us on Sundays at 8:00 or 10:30 a.m. or on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Your Gifts are still Welcomed and Appreciated

A while back we gave you the opportunity to contribute to the WELS Year of Jubilee offering. To date WELS members have given \$3.3 million for this special offering.

The purpose of this offering is explained below. If you have not already given a gift or would like to give an additional gift, that would be great. Year of Jubilee envelopes have been included in this mailing. Thank you so much for those who have already given or will give a gift for this offering!

WELS has launched a Year of Jubilee celebration in response to the 2007 Synod Convention authorization of a special offering to eliminate our synod's debt. This debt is a result of capital projects and amal-

gamations at our ministerial education schools and internal borrowing.



WELS Year of Jubilee celebration will run through the Synod Convention in July, 2009.

Christian giving is motivated by God's love for us. The Year of Jubilee focuses on God's love for us as shown by the Old Testament Year of Jubilee foreshadowing a Savior, Jesus, who frees us from the debt of sin.

The Jubilee offering, with a goal of \$22.4 million, is a huge challenge, but it also provides a huge opportunity for us. It is a time to hear about God's love for us and truly put our faith in him to provide for all of our needs. In doing so we can confidently make gifts beyond anything we have given before.

Reducing or eliminating the debt would free up to \$2.7 million a year to then "proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" - the gospel - to so many in our world who are prisoners of darkness because they don't know God's grace. The closer we get to achieving our goal with this offering, the more resources we'll have to carry out our ministry.

Confirmed in the Faith

On Sunday, May 3, seven of our young people were confirmed. We praise the Lord for strengthening these confirmands in their faith through their study of God's Word and pray that they will remain trusting in the Lord all the days of their lives.

Joel Justus Alonte son of Alex and Sheila Alonte was born June 13, 1995 and baptized June 25, 1995.
Revelation 2:10. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Jacob Dean Besler son of Dean and Rebecca Besler was born July 27, 1995 and baptized August 6, 1995.

Ephesians 2:8, 9 It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is

the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Troy Alan Haefemeyer son of Mark Haefemeyer and Janet Haefemeyer was born February 20, 1995 and baptized March 19, 1995.

Isaiah 40:31 Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

Chandra Joelene Keller daughter of Timothy and Donna Keller was born December 01, 1994 and baptized March 19, 1995.

2 Peter 3:18 Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jacob Andrew Leach son of Timothy and Arla Leach was born July 12, 1995 and baptized August 6, 1995.

John 3:16 God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Anthony Howard Leino Jr. son of Anthony Leino Sr. and Michelle Leino was born December 3, 1994 and baptized December 18, 1994.

Psalms 23:1 The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want.

Daniel Glenn Quigley son of Phillip and Mary Alice Quigley was born November 6, 1994 and baptized November 24, 1994.

Joshua 1:9 Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Welcoming Center Construction Update



I am happy to announce that the Building Committee has set the date of Sunday June 7 as the opening date for our welcoming center. Sunday June 7 has been designated as “Dedication Sunday” for our new building. We will have special services that Sunday to thank our gracious God for this wonderful gift. Both entrances to the building will be open for the first time between the early and late services.

On Thursday April 30 key members of the Building Committee, members of KTA and Catalyst Construction did a walk through of the welcoming center to do a final “punch list” of our building. A “punch list” is simply walking through the building looking for construction flaws that need to be fixed. These

flaws are documented and given to the various contractors who in turn will make the necessary adjustments to fix the flaws.

We still need to do a “punch list” on the outside of the building but will have to wait until the ground is drier.

By waiting until June 7 for the opening of our building we will be able to accomplish the following –

- ✦ This will give all of the contractors time to fix the flaws on the inside and outside of our building.
- ✦ Landscaping and the final paving of our driveway will begin shortly. There will be an enormous mess with dirt, mud and extra machinery on our lot. By keeping the building closed until the work is finished we will be able to keep the inside of our building free of the outside construction mess.
- ✦ Lewis Sound and Catalyst Construction will train selected members of our congregation on how to use the sound, video, heat, air conditioning and lighting systems. The building should be completely finished except for a few things we

cannot fit into our budget. We will let everyone know in future communications what these items are and perhaps through donations, gifts and memorials we will raise the money needed to add them to our building.

Once the building is open this coming June it will be available for use by our members for various committee meetings and church functions. Rules, regulations and guidelines will be written for the usage of the building. In order to keep the traffic moving through the building and to keep the building looking fresh and new it is imperative that we limit tables, banners, signs and who is to use the building.

Thanks again to all of our members for your patience, prayers and contributions. We could not have built this building without your help.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Cutting
Building Committee Chairman

Celebrating our Lord's Ascension

Forty days after he rose from the dead, our Lord ascended bodily into heaven where he watches over us and rules over all things for our good.

Christians have been celebrating our Lord's ascension since the early centuries of the New Testament

Church. We hope you'll join us for our **Ascension Service on Thursday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m.** Holy Communion will be offered.

We invite you to join us after the service in our school gym for an ice cream social sponsored by our Home and School group.





4001 South 68th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220

Phone: 414-541-5881 Fax: 414-541-7869

Email: pastor.goldschmidt@stjohnsmilw.org; pastor.schulz@stjohnsmilw.org

Internet: www.stjohnsmilw.org

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 2814**

St. John's School News

Milwaukee Parental Choice Open Enrollment will be held in May, June and July from the first of each month until the twentieth of each month.

All eligible families can fill out a Milwaukee Parental Choice Application for each child in the family.

Eligibility is determined by the family's City of Milwaukee residence, family household number and family household income.

If you have any questions concerning the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, please stop in or call the school office. Thank you!

School Registration: Our day school is registering for the 2009/2010 school year. Call the school office 414.541.5881 to make an appointment to discuss enrollment with Mr. Meyer. Registration packets are available in the school office.



Friday, May 22 is St. John's TJO (Trojan Junior Olympics) Day. This all day track & field event is a fun day for all those involved. **We need many parent volunteers to help with all the sporting events.** A sign up sheet is available in the school office.

The Upper Grade Musical "Pied Piper, The Musical," is **Friday, May 29.**

Wednesday, June 3 is the last day of school with classes dismissed at 11:30 a.m.

Grade School Closing Service & Graduation Service, Friday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m.