

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE:** Preschool thru Grade 12 at 9:10 AM (Sept.-May)

Adult Bible Class at 9:10 AM (Sept.-May); 8:30 AM (June/July/August)

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE:** Saturdays at 6:00 PM

Sundays at 10:30 AM (Sept.-May)

Sundays at 9:30 AM (June/July/August)

WEBSITE: [www.stjohnclarinda.org](http://www.stjohnclarinda.org)

EMAIL: [stjohnlcms@mediacombb.net](mailto:stjohnlcms@mediacombb.net)

**COMMUNION CELEBRATION:**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month and the Saturdays before these Sundays

A **Monthly Communion** service is held the Tuesday following the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at 1:30 PM

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday-Thursday, 7:30 AM to 3 PM; Friday, 7:30 AM to NOON

REPORTER deadline ... the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month

## St. John Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*



# THE JANUARY 2012 REPORTER

*Working together and fully equipped,  
we will proclaim the Good News of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.*

### St. John Lutheran Church

301 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street

Clarinda, Iowa 51632-1755

712.542.3708

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<sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19–20 (ESV)

The greatest joy that Trudi and I could share with you is that you had a very meaningful Christmas season and continued blessings for a happy and prosperous New Year.

When we see this little piece of clipart and hear the words of our Savior as He departs this world, some of us might feel a little bit intimidated. After all making disciples of the whole world; who is Jesus kidding, anyway? I thought that since we are beginning a new year, it might be good to take a look at what we, as God's children, are to be about as we live for the Lord.

I know I can't speak for you, but it is inferred in the passages above that we are Disciples of Christ. What does this mean? Eerdman's Bible Dictionary gives three different meanings to the word disciple. The first meaning is "one who follows." The second, "one who is a student." And the third, "one who learns." This means that we follow Christ, study His word and learn and practice what He teaches.

The word disciple(s) appears 269 times in the ESV Bible. The importance of being a disciple is summed up in Jesus' own words as He departs to be with the Heavenly Father: "Make disciples!" Just as there was no plan "B" for our salvation, neither is there a plan "B" for followers, students and learners of Christ made possible through faith. We learn the inerrancy of scripture because "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God." As students of the Word, we study the prophets and the people of the Bible and find that we fall very short of the will of our heavenly Father. We find that we are weak, poor in spirit and desperately in need of the salvation by a perfect sacrifice. Unfortunately, it is the third part of discipleship that presents us with the obvious downfall of humanity.

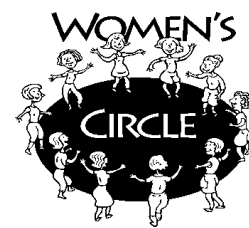
As a disciple we are to learn from the first two characteristics of discipleship. Because God didn't create us as robots, automatons that do exactly the same things in life, we use our free will improperly and that results in sin. There are things that Jesus desires as we "follow" Him that go against our selfish human nature. Face it, brothers and sisters; we don't like to love all of our neighbors as we do ourselves. We don't like to pray for our enemies. We don't like to walk that extra mile with the needy. We most of all don't like the fact that Christ wants us to live in harmony, unity and peace with one another. It is only through the perfect sacrifice of Christ that we can find peace with our heavenly

Father, forgiveness of sin and the promise of life everlasting.

Let us, together, here at St. John make a New Year's resolution to be followers of Christ instead of trying to make Him a follower of us in areas of our Christian lives that we are uncomfortable with. Let us be students of the miracle and mysteries that God has given us. Let us be learners of the truth: "I am the truth, the life and the way." There can be nothing that the world can offer that tops being a Disciple of Christ.

"Have a Blessed and Prosperous New Year in Christ."

— Pastor Tompkins —



*LWML news ...*

Thanks to all the ladies who helped with the joint meeting of the LWML on Dec. 7. The decorations, the food and the fellowship made for a wonderful day. The program committee did a phenomenal job and Roberta Reents sharing her work with Laborers for Christ was inspiring.

It is my GREAT pleasure to share with you the success of our general offering and silent auction. Because of your generosity we will send \$682.50 to the church in Joplin and \$315.50 to Operation Barnabas. We collected 24 pairs of sweatpants for Garfield School. We voted to support the following Mission projects for 2012: Salvation Army (funds to be utilized in Clarinda), Hospitality House, Kindergarten Scholarships, Orphans in Haiti and then we had a tie for our fifth project, the Deaf Ministry in Council Bluffs and the Clarinda Lutheran School Library. Hopefully in 2012 we will be blessed to support ALL of the above projects!!!!

The balance of our treasury as of Dec. 9 was \$269.95.

This month our Human Care project is collecting fabric for fabric kits. The contents of each kit is as follows:

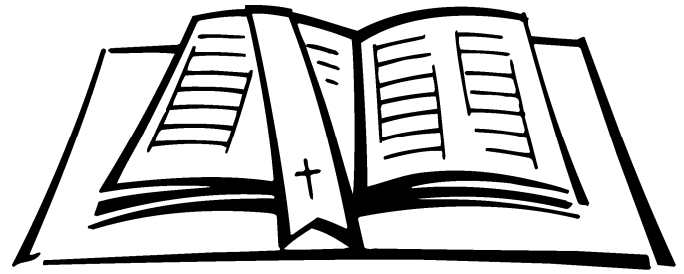
Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester); fabric should have no stains or holes and be cut into pieces measuring: 2¼ yards of 60 inch fabric, or 3 yards of 44 inch wide fabric; or 4 yards of 36 inch wide fabric.

Two spools of matching or neutral colored general purpose thread, 250-300 yards each.

Fold thread and one piece of fabric inside second fabric piece and tie with yarn, sturdy string, ribbon, or strip of fabric. Do not enclose the Fabric Kit or any of its contents in a plastic bag.

Please look at the church calendar for the dates of the Circle meetings. The January Bible study is on page 16 of the Winter Quarterly and is entitled, "The Blessing of Stress." Copies of the quarterly are in the narthex, by the chapel, and in the education wing.

Remember that the first weekend of the month is MITE weekend. The MITE boxes are located outside of the chapel and in the narthex. As of Nov. 15, \$1480.50 was collected for MITES with \$84.93 coming from MITE weekend!!! Thank you for your generosity and may God continue to bless you in 2012.



**material available. Thank you!**



## Voices Needed

Looking for a great way to get involved in worship? Sing to the Lord a new song! <sup>Psalms 96:1</sup> We need more choir members. The choir does a fantastic job, but they need some help. Choir meets weekly on Wednesdays at 7 PM for 45 minutes during the school year. Anyone high school age or older can join us. If you haven't sung in choir before or maybe it has been a while, we still want you. Any questions, please feel free to talk to a choir member or Mike Jones or if you like, just come to practice and try it out. Hope to see you there!



### Hospitality House ...

Once again our landlady came to the rescue when the bathroom facilities needed repair and front door needed attention. Thanks, Arlene, for your quick response.

Some time ago a gift card to the Garrison House was left - to be given to some guest. Since it was nearly Christmas, the gift card was given to a husband and wife who "came at the right time."

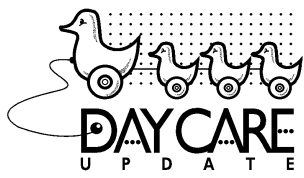
The workers decorated the Christmas tree, sorted the abundance of trimmings and gave the surplus to the Community Center.

Marilyn will be gone for a few weeks so Alberta is once again taking the phone reservations.

We are hoping that 2012 will be another successful year at the Hospitality House, God willing.

### Beginning Soon!

**Dance classes** at Porter's Lake every Tuesday in January from 7-9 PM. Cost is \$60 per couple, \$34 for single. For more information or to register call



### News from Noah's Ark ...

#### DAYCARE ...

- Thank you to everyone that came out to support our fundraiser in December. We greatly appreciate your support!
- Also, our thanks to those that donated money toward items on the Wish Tree for the daycare.

#### PRESCHOOL ...

- Preschool classes resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.
- Theme: Outer Space, Train, Bears, Rodeo
- Stories: Wisemen Visit, Jesus Grows as a Child, The Boy Jesus at the Temple, Jesus is Baptized
- Letters: O,T,B,R

*Carleen Smith, Director*

### Join us for Bible study beginning Jan. 8 ...

On Sunday, January 8, at 9:10 AM we will begin a 3-week "crash course" on Luther's Small Catechism led by Pastor Tompkins. We will meet in the Chapel. All are invited and encouraged to attend. This will be a great opportunity for those who may be seeking membership, who want to know more about what we believe as Lutheran Christians, or those who want a short refresher course on their catechism.

#### Our Plan of Action for January 8, 15 and 22, 2012

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**THE APOSTLES CREED AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** 1/8/2012

**BAPTISM AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS** 1/15/2012

**THE LORD'S SUPPER AND THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM**

1/22/2012

**Those planning to attend are asked to call Sandy at the church office so that we have adequate**

712.246.1695. Waltz \* Polka \* Two Step \* Cha-Cha \* Triple Two Step \* Cotton Eyed Joe \* Electric Slide.



### Sharing God's Love ...

At the heart of stewardship is the love God has shown to us through His Son, Jesus. Because He loves us, He has given us "redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us..." (Ephesians 1:7-8). God is not stingy with His gifts: He "lavishes" them on us. Forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation would be enough, wouldn't they? But God chooses to give us more gifts – the gifts of His creation to care for, food and clothing, family and friends, and much more. He "richly provides us with everything to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17). Responsibility comes with this enjoyment, for we "are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share" (1 Timothy 6:18).

We are enabled to shoulder this responsibility because God Himself has called us to be His stewards. Because God has chosen to work through us, we faithfully respond to His love and grace. Because of God's grace in our lives we are transformed into Christ's likeness. We read in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me."



As followers of Christ we are capable of doing marvelous things because of God's power at work in our lives. God uses us as conduits to share His love and rich supply with others. God not only calls us to His work of stewardship, He sets out the good deeds He wants us to accomplish: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

God's love shines through us as we individually share our blessings with others. We can reflect God's love as we follow His guidance and willingly serve Him with our time, abilities, and money. As the Apostle Paul said, "Therefore, my beloved brothers be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58). May our love never grow cold and may we never tire of doing God's work.

*Lutherans For Life ...* "The first truth of life is that every life is the handiwork of God. The Psalmist says that God 'knitted' (Psalm 139:13) each of us together in our mother's womb. Job and Isaiah talk about God shaping and forming us in the womb. Yes, the truth of life is, every life is the work of God's hands." *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life – A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life – [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*



*The Lutheran Hour ...* The Lutheran Hour is aired every Sunday. Station listings in our area: 6:30 AM KFAB (1110 AM), Omaha, NE; 7:30 AM WHO (1040 AM); 8:00 AM KCMO (710 AM), Mission, KS; 8:30 AM KFEQ (680 AM), St. Joseph, MO; 9:30 AM KJAN (1220 AM), Atlantic, IA.

