

MAY

2013

May Dates To Remember

5-2 In The Word 1:30
5-4 Secret Church 4:30
5-11 National Rural
Mission Event 8 am
5-19 Honor Grad's 10:30
5-22 Board of Dir 7:00
5-27 Memorial Day

Newsletter Sponsor

The mailing of this month's newsletter is sponsored by Steve & Sue Oberg in loving memory of their son, Chris. Thank you Steve & Sue, and God's blessings for your generosity which makes it possible for members to continue to receive the newsletters in their homes this month. Your help is greatly appreciated.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The following children are celebrating May birthdays!

Tyler Ohlmeier on 5-11
Johannah McKibben on 5-25

St. Matthew In Action

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
(stmatthewmap@longlines.com)



Pastor's Corner

The Pastor's desk is taking on a new look. Starting with this edition I will be offering you an opportunity to grow in your faith through the study of God's Word. The nation we once knew is slowly taking away our freedoms of religion. And because of this it is becoming greatly important to me to put even more of God's word in my brain...permanently. I have started to memorize passages preparing for the day when I have to hide my Holy Bible.

I invite you to join me in taking this challenge, this life changing challenge of committing God's word to memory. By doing this, we are preparing ourselves for a number of things. One we are preparing ourselves to be able to share our faith in Christ through His word and two we are preparing ourselves for the real possibility that our bibles one day will be taken away from us.

You may not agree with me on the latter, but I know you can't argue with me on the former. We all have a mission to GO and share the love of Christ with those around us. This is a great place to start by putting God's word in that memory bank for you to forever hold onto.

To begin I encourage you to join me in putting to memory a verse that reminds us who we are here to serve. We are not here to serve man; we are here to serve the Lord Jesus Christ! Blessings to you as you join me in putting more of God's Word to memory!

Colossians 3:23-24--- "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

In His Service,
Pastor Jensen



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

With joy, we give special recognition to the following couples who are celebrating anniversaries in March of 50 years or more!

Wayne & Zola Kafton, 50 years on May 5th

Stan & Mavis Skow, 50 years on May 24th

John & Joan Fick, 57 years on May 27th

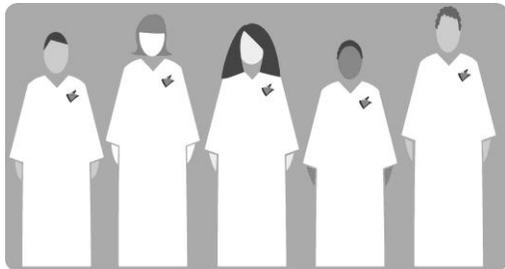
May each new day bring you a renewal of God's blessings!

BIRTHDAYS

With joy, we give special recognition to:

- Arlene Teut, celebrating her 92st birthday on May 11th
- Vonis Reinbold, celebrating her 91th birthday on May 21st
- Lillian Wodtke, celebrating her 97th birthday on May 24th

God's blessings and a very special happy birthday all of you!



Kudos to Our Confirmands

Mitchell Elmquist
Dolly Krohn
Mandy Meseck
Jacob Schaffer

Only God holds the future, and when you have found God, you might not know what your future holds, but you will have the blessed security of knowing who holds you now and forever. -R.G. LeTourneau



Kaitlyn Goslar
Kimberly Greiner

Zach Schaffer
Wendy Waderich



Our High School
Graduates will be
honored in church on
May 19 @ 10:30
service.

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

Thursday, May 9th @ Mission Central

A dinner of barbequed pork loin and spare ribs will be served, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Meat, dessert, drinks, and table service will be provided. Those attending the dinner are invited to bring a dish to share.

A free-will offering will be received to help cover costs of the meal.

The service will begin at 7 p.m.

The guest preacher will be The Reverend Russell Sommerfeld, LCMS Nebraska District President.

The offering will be given to the support of Vicar Ben and Amy Riley, who will be going to Shenzhen, China to serve a 2-year vicarage at the first English speaking Lutheran church in mainland China.

NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH BOARD

We need volunteers who would be willing to put their name on a "Dinner Ministry" list that when called upon will help provide an occasional meal to people in need because of personal or medical reasons. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church or you can leave your name with the church office. Thank you!



June 24 - 28 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Camp Okoboji Traveling VBS Camp is coming to Mapleton this year!

This will be a program that will provide participants with opportunity to experience God's grace, love and guidance through Bible study, interaction with energetic camp staff, skits, games and other activities.

All children must Pre-Register! Because we are bringing in this special group for VBS this year, all children must be pre-registered so that our Camp people have enough crafts, etc to go around. Watch the bulletin for registration details.

We will be looking for volunteers to assist during the camp, to provide and serve snacks/meals, and to offer a place for the camp staff to sleep. Please prayerfully consider how you can help make VBS camp a success this year!!

EVENTS COMING TO MISSION CENTRAL

May 25th – Judy Newhouse, our Missionary Teacher who is currently teaching and helping reach out to people in darkness in Hong Kong will be here on May 25th @ 1:30 pm. This is one of our finest missionaries from Omaha, Nebraska.

NEWS FROM THE LADIES

We are again collecting sewing machines, particularly portable ones, spools of thread and material for the POBLO mission in Texas. Let's see what we can collect for them by August. Call for pick-up 882-1247.

Christine Schultz, information tech for LWML invites all the women to send her your email address to receive the free Iowa District West Newsletter by email. Contact Christine at christinefayeschultz@gmail.com



It's Not About the Score

There is something amazing about little feet and legs and bodies chasing a ball on a blanket of green. Maybe it is just me, but to watch kids on a soccer field, running with all their might, kicking, passing, scoring, celebrating- my heart just bursts into little pieces when they are exhausted and smiling.

Last year, I remember Grady running up to me after every goal their team scored. Jumping, bounding, giving fives. I thought *just like our relationship with the Father*. It hit me that the pride and joy I felt in both my little soccer players was a gift- a glimpse into God's regard for His children. His regard for me. The insignificance of my daily chores suddenly became reasons to give God a high five and be reminded that my Coach was right on the field with me, and celebrating my every play!

This year started much the same way. The aunts and uncles and grandparents received pictures of their grandkids, niece and nephew, scoring goals and taking names. The grace and beauty of their form and footwork- it was no less than perfect art to me. My heart ached with love as Grady talked nonstop after the games about how they played.

Then Grady's team lost. Quite handedly. It was one of those games where we wondered if the kids packed their cleats and shin-guards, but not their feet and brains. And you could see it on their faces; they were just as baffled as the rest of us. They were trying. Trying hard. But nothing connected. Like everything we had done the past few weeks was undone in one night.

One boy was devastated. He probably would have torn his clothes in mourning had he the strength. His brother, on the other hand, did manage to score- and brilliantly-on his own team. But you should have seen his face light up. I just smiled that I-can't-break-this-kid's-heart smile and held out my hand. With an "I scored!" he gave me five. I then gently suggested he try scoring in the opposite goal the next time.

Grady wasn't too rocked by the loss. "We lost 9-1," he told his Auntie Sarah, and that was about it.

Grady didn't feel like a loser. He felt Grady Jensen, the soccer player who lost a game. He knew what was really important- that even when he lost, his mother and father still loved and cared for him. It became immediately apparent that the real demonstration of my love was much more significant when he had nothing to "offer" to earn it. His ability to keep things in perspective was an example for me to follow.

It is easy to define ourselves by our roles. We rate our job performance on a spectrum from *Loser* to *Winner* and determine God's love accordingly. Then we lose it. Nothing connects. We wonder where we left our mind. Some days I ask God, "How can you love me? I'm such a horrible mom." I turn myself into a mom who follows God, instead of a child of God who is also a mom. *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ... Ephesians 2:4-5*

What makes the difference? Relationship. A relationship entirely dependent on a loving Father. A relationship that is not contingent on what we have to offer- which is awesome because, outside of Jesus Christ, there isn't a human being on earth that has ever made the grade. We all lose, but we are *not* losers. We are champions in a very literal and eternal sense. All those other vocations we have- those are just gravy. Those are graces upon grace; things we do for the glory of God because we can, not because we have to climb some ladder of success to achieve significance. In fact, it is when we are at our lowest that we are forced to look up, and God's love reveals itself most faithful ...*so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2: 7-8*

by Lauren Jensen



