

From the Desk of Pastor Jim

The Survey Says...and Congregation has Spoken... So Shall it Be!

Thank you to all who took the time to fill out the survey and in many cases write additional notes. We had a total of 77 surveys returned. Not all people who filled out a survey answered all the statements. Thank you St. John people.

On the matter of **Worship Style** only one person voted for a contemporary service; 28 people voted for one traditional service; and 48 people voted for a combined service. Of those, 38 people voted for a Blended Service while only 10 voted for a Bookend Service. It was very clear from our Cottage Meetings that the Bookend Service was thought to be too confusing with much too much "coming and going." If you will remember, I said when we started the Bookend Service that it was a trial and if it is not liked, nothing was written in stone.

At the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 29th, 54 people cast their voted for: One Contemporary Service - 2 people; One Traditional Service – 18 people; and One Combined Service – 36 people. Of those voting for a Combined Service, 31 voted for a Blended Service while 5 voted for a Bookend Service.

On the matter of **Service Time**, 57 people indicated they preferred one service at 10:00 AM; One person voted for 9:30 AM; and 22 people voted for two services, one traditional and one contemporary. Of those who voted for two services, 13 people preferred the Traditional Service to be a 9:00 AM and the Contemporary Service at 10:30 AM. Another 13 people preferred it the other way around.

At the Congregational Meeting we had 4 people who voted for a 9:30 AM service; 39 people voted for a 10:00 AM service; and 9 people voted for two separate services.

On the matter of **Preaching Style**, 48 people liked the Preaching and Teaching Style of Sermons, while 32 preferred the Regular Preaching. Of those who prefer the Preaching and Teaching Style, 23 said they use the booklets; 14 said they did not use the booklets; and 6 said they would use study material prepared by Pastor Jim (this option was only on the edited and simplified survey so it could have been greater).

At the Congregational Meeting we had 28 people who voted for the Preaching & Teaching Style of Sermons while 24 people voted for Traditional Style of Sermons.

On the matter of the use of **The Screen**, 53 people said they like the screen, while 20 people said they did not like the use of the screen.

At the Congregational Meeting 34 people want to continue to use the screen while 18 people said they did not.

On the matter of **Moving the Communion Rail**, 34 people said they would like to see the rail moved to main floor; 35 people said they would NOT like to see it move; while another 11 people had no opinion on the matter.

At the Congregational Meeting it was decided to move the Communion Rail by a 28 to 23 margin. It was also decided that an additional Congregation Meeting would be called to determine the design and cost of how best to effect handicapped accessibility.

It was also suggested that these changes would be effective starting the First Sunday in March, which would be March 4th, 2012. It is my hope and prayer that now we can move forward, with the decisions made, and we can work together to continue growing in God's Word and growing in an ever closer relationship to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Pastor Jim on Vacation

I will be in Virginia helping my Son and family move into their new house from January 30th through February 3rd and **possibly (???)** again from February 6th to 10th. During my absence, Michael will be on call for any Hospital Visits or Sick Calls. If Pastoral Services are needed, Pastor Gary Richards of Hosanna Lutheran Church, Columbia Stations will be available. Please call the Church Office to let Chris know what is needed. She will make contact with Pastor Richards.

Tuesday Bible Class "Walk Through the Bible"

In February, we will meet on the 14th and the 21st either at 1:30-3:00 or 7:00-8:30 PM. The evening class has finished Genesis and is ready to start the Book of Exodus. Our afternoon class will finish up Genesis and then start Exodus. Please be sure to mark these days in big red letters so that nothing else will keep you from study in God's Word with your Pastor Jim (barring any emergencies, etc.).

Ash Wednesday Service – February 22nd at 12 Noon and 7:00 PM

We will be holding Ash Wednesday services again at Noon and then at 7 PM. We will observe both the ceremony of ashes as well as celebrate Holy Communion in both services. Please put this on your calendar for February. Thank you.

Special Offering during Lent

Even though we are not holding special Wednesday Service except for Ash Wednesday, we are joining the Lutheran World Relief's "Baskets of Promise". Thousands of people fled to

Dadaab, Kenya, to find relief from East Africa's devastating drought and famine. Many of these displaced people are children, who need schools to provide stability and a sense of normalcy. This Lenten season, as our congregation journeys toward the cross, we want to be Christ's hands to these children by providing school kits and thereby pave the way for a "future of hope."

Each week, we will be collecting a different item to fill School Kits that will give these children the essential items they need to learn and work toward that better future. See next page of a list of items and when they will be asked for. Our goal is to assemble 100 Lutheran World Relief School Kits during Lent.

Baskets for these items will be on the back tables and we ask that you simply drop these items in the appropriate basket. Thank you for your support.

HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

FEBRUARY 26

Notebooks (70-sheet, wide- or college-ruled, approx. 8" x 10 ½", no loose-leaf paper)



MARCH 4

Backpacks (sturdy drawstring cloth bag approx. 14" x 17" with shoulder straps)



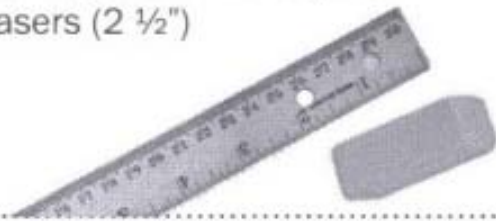
MARCH 11

Pens (black or blue, no gel ink) and Pencils (unsharpened #2 with eraser)



MARCH 18

Rulers (30-centimeter) and Erasers (2 ½")



MARCH 25

Crayons (box of 16 or 24) and Pencil Sharpeners



APRIL 1 (Palm Sunday)

Scissors (blunt safety scissors)



Lutheran Hour Ministries Sunday

We will be celebrating Lutheran Hour Ministries Sunday on February 5th with a special insert and contribution envelop in the bulletin. In addition to celebrating this Christ-centered ministry of our Church, Pastor Jim will be preaching and teaching on how we can make sure Christ is at the center of our Life and Teaching. Pastor Jim will also be sharing when he and Michael Creutz will be presenting the Lutheran Hour's Mission U – a congregational presentation on personal evangelism and how we can share Jesus in our modern day with family, friends and neighbors. We will be offering three different seminars, one each in the months of February, March and April. These will be held on a Saturday from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Cost of these seminars is \$10 which includes all materials and a light lunch provided.

Teaching Event – February 19th at 7 PM

Each month Pastor Jim holds what he calls "Teaching Events." These are special one night events where people can grow and learn about various subjects. For people who are not use to Bible study, this is a painless way to grow and learn about your Christian faith in Jesus. For the month of February, Pastor Jim will show the second DVD by Pastor Louis Giglio, who will "knock your socks off." He is a very dynamic speaker and you will surely enjoy him.

How Great is Our God?

“Your life is a miracle, and the Creator of the universe knows you personally by name.”

God is big enough to breath out stars, yet intricate enough to fashion together the trillions of cells that make up who you are.

On **Sunday, February 19th at 7 pm** Pastor Jim will show the next DVD by Louis Giglio, Pastor and inspiring speaker, who will talk about our God who is intimately acquainted with you and promises to carry you through life.

If you ever been down – ***this will pick you up!***

Come and be inspired!