

## *Jesus is Miraculous* **He Helps the Paralyzed**

*"That you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. ..." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and*



The house was at capacity. Standing room only. Those not able to squeeze in strained to catch a glimpse through the doorway. They were there to see Jesus who was teaching a crowd. But one man in particular could not get into the house. He could not peer over heads. He could not even stand. He was paralyzed.

Yet he and his four friends were determined to see Jesus. So his friends clambered up to the roof. They removed the tiles and then the thatching, enough to fit their friend through. Using the mat upon which he was lying, they lowered him down. Right at the feet of Jesus.

Some might call them crazy. Others might say they were obsessed. Jesus called it faith. The paralyzed man and his friends were confident that Jesus was able to make him whole. And Jesus did with five small words: "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

It's not what many in the crowd expected to hear. It may not be the answer you want to hear when paralyzed with problems. We want real answers for our real problems. We want a cure for cancer. We want an end to family fights. We want money to cover our debts.

What about the problem of death? Death is the debt that we all must pay. But death is only the beginning. God's judgment upon sin lasts forever. In hell. That's what we deserve for thinking we have better answers than God does for life's problems.

God's answer? Jesus. God loves you so much he transferred your debt to his Son. On the cross, Jesus suffered for your sin. For you he endured hell's eternal fire. For

you he died. And for you he rose to life victorious. His victory is your victory!

The paralyzed man's most critical problem was sin. So Jesus forgave him. Then, to prove to us that he is the perfect Son of God and the world's perfect Savior with the perfect answer to all our troubles, Jesus restored the man's legs. The man got up and walked home, praising God.

Have you been brought low? Troubled by sin? We welcome you to learn about and praise the miraculous Savior you have in Jesus. He has forgiven your sins. He has the power and desire to get you back on your feet. Whatever your woes, Jesus is the answer every time!

*Reprinted from our synod's  
Outreach Newsletter*

Join us for worship on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. or on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. On Wednesdays during Lent (Feb. 25—April 1) we worship at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

# Elected to Serve



At our Voters' meeting this past Sunday we elected the following men to serve the Lord and our congregation: Donald Schaewe, Vice President; Terry Bartelt, Financial Secretary; Wayne Keller, Board for Outreach; James Janiszewski and Robert Hilgedorf, Adult Discipleship; Andrew Kleist, Board for Worship; James Bartol, Board for School; Eric Pearson and Edward Mahnke, Board for Financial Man-

agement. We thank these men for their willingness to serve! Our thanks also to our outgoing officers and board members for their faithful service. They are: Alex Alonte, Cliff Bartsch, Paul Becker, Bob Cutting, Bob Deubig, Kevin Hablewitz, and Jack Ringe.

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## Lent and Holy Week Worship

Ash Wednesday, February 25, begins the season of Lent. The season of Lent precedes the celebration of Easter. During this season, we focus closely on Christ's suffering and death for the forgiveness of our sins and peace with God.

Lent is a season of repentance and renewal. It reminds us that our sins were the cause of our Lord's suffering and death. It also clearly shows us the depth of our Savior's love for us and assures us of forgiveness through his perfect life and his sacrifice for our sins.

During Lent we hold special mid-week services on Wednesdays at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. These special services begin on Ash Wednesday and continue throughout the season until Holy Week.

The theme of our mid-week Lenten services this year is **Father, Forgive Them!** It recalls Jesus' words from the cross when he asked his Father to forgive even his enemies "for they do not know what they are doing."

The themes for each service are listed below under the heading **Father, Forgive**

**February 25:** Our Desire to Defy Your Authority

**March 4:** Our Misplaced Sorrow

**March 11:** Us When We Despise Your Great Salvation

**March 18:** Us When We Abandon Your Truths

**March 25:** Our Fearful Lack of Trust

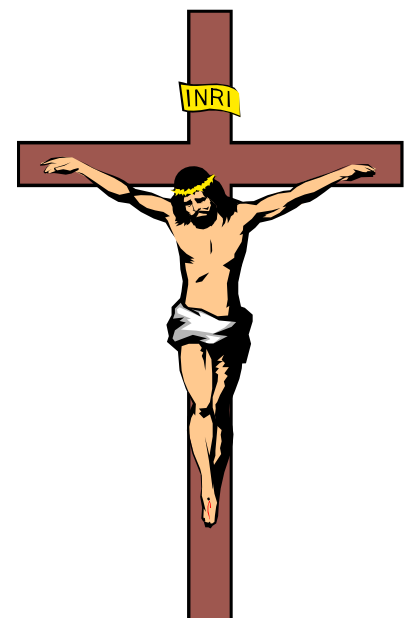
**April 1:** Us for Despising Our Savior's Claim

**We hope that you'll join us for our special Lenten services on the Wednesdays in Lent at 3:30 or 6:30 p.m. beginning on February 25!**

During Holy Week we have a number of special services as well. On Maundy Thursday, April 9, we have services with Holy Communion at

3:30 and 6:30 p.m. On Good Friday, April 10, we worship at 1:00 and 6:30 p.m. On Easter Sunday we worship at 6:00, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Our Maundy Thursday theme is: **Father, Forgive Us Through this Holy Supper.** On Good Friday our theme is: **Father, Forgive Us for the Sake of Your Son!** The theme for our 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Easter service is: **The Father Has Forgiven Us!**



# Excerpts of a letter from our WELS President



"I will be with you, to the very end of the age." With those words, Jesus gave his sure and unchanging promise that

he would be with his people as they carry out the mission he had just given them. Those words, as familiar as they are, need to fill our thoughts and hearts as our nation and the world struggle with growing economic problems, and as we address some of the most difficult financial challenges our synod has faced in many years.

The new reality is, by any measure, very difficult. We are faced with the simple and painful fact that the level of funding available to support our synod's mission and ministry will be significantly less in the next two years than it is today. While support from congregations has been commendable and steady in these difficult times, expected support from other sources has dropped significantly. The blunt reality is that we will need to reduce our synod's budget by approximately \$8 million, from about \$38 million today

to approximately \$30 million in the next fiscal year.

When the Synodical Council presents a balanced budget to the convention in July, which it is required by the constitution to do, significant reductions will need to be made in all areas of our synod's work.

Our desire to proclaim the gospel to more and more people has led us to adopt ambitious plans across the synod. That is a noble goal, but we have often looked to support those plans on anticipated gifts from foundations, individuals, and other sources. We are now in a situation where some of those large gifts have been suddenly reduced. As commendable as our plans may have been, we simply do not have the financial means to continue at the same level as before.

For that reason, the Synodical Council will not simply be wrestling with the short-term reduction in the budget. It will also be looking to the need for providing long-term stability to our finances. The Synodical Council will be considering at least one proposal to achieve this goal. This proposal for long-term stability will not enable us to avoid difficult cuts now, but it will seek to provide a new approach to

budgeting and planning that will greatly reduce the likelihood of a similar situation occurring in the future.

One main element of the proposal is a commitment to planning our ongoing ministry based primarily on our most stable source of funding (Congregation Mission Offerings) and using large donations from other sources for one-time or limited-time programs. All ideas to provide long-term financial stability will be explored.

In all of these challenges, we remain confident that God is using these circumstances somehow to bless his believers and to benefit his church. We continue to place our trust in him, and we pray that God would use these difficult times to unite us more closely with him and with each other.

Serving in Christ,  
Mark Schroeder

*Editor's Note:* President Schroeder's letter is a reminder to us of how vital our offerings are for the ministry and mission of our synod. Even in these difficult financial times, we pray that the Lord will move us to give generously for the spread of his saving Word.

## Lenten Suppers



**Lenten suppers are served in the school gym between services on Wednesdays from 4:14-5:45 p.m.**

The schedule is:

**February 25**—Tacos served by Home & School

**March 4**—Baked potato bar served by Senior Choir

**March 11**—Soup & Salad served by Adoration Handbell Choir

**March 18**—Sloppy Joes served by Fellowship Committee

**March 25**—Ziti Bake served by Home & School

**April 1**—Meatloaf Dinner served by Senior Choir

Please join us for good food and fellowship between services!

Our thanks to all who signed up to prepare and serve our suppers!



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## St. John's School News

**Milwaukee Parental Choice Open Enrollment** will be held in March, April, 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.

Items necessary with the application are a signed and dated 2008 Income Tax Return and a copy of a current utility bill with your City of Milwaukee address.

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!

**There will be no school** on Friday, March 6, because of the Metro Teachers' Conference and on Friday, March 20, because of a faculty in-service.

St. John's Lutheran Church will be having a **Family Night Out at Ferch's Malt Shoppe &**

**Grille**, 5636 Broad Street, Greendale on March 31, 2009. Our church will receive 10% from the orders collected during the 5 hour period for both dine in and carry out orders. Fliers will be in the church bulletin, school newsletter and available for your use from the church/school office.

