



# The Voice

July 2007

## I was slammed!

Recently, I loaned some money to Vermilion River Camp so they could make some repairs to their property in northern Minnesota. I borrowed the funds at 0% interest for about one year. What a deal! The repairs were made and the camp is once again ready for campers up north. This is exactly what I had hoped would happen.

But what I did not expect was the credit card company to raise their rate to 23.23%!!! The annual % rate I was quoted after the 13 months of 0% was 7.99% for the life of the loan. I called an agent for the company and asked them why my rate was changed. I thought perhaps I missed a payment or that they received my payment late or something. No! They said even though I had never been late or missed a payment, since I had only made the minimum payments for the life of the loan, my credit score had fallen, and their annual review committee decided to take away the good customer rate of 7.99% and change it to 23.23%. She was very sorry, but there is nothing she could do to change the situation.

I asked to speak with the supervisor. Same story! I asked to speak with the Account Specialist. Yada, yada! I asked to speak with the head manager (in a different state) who was very sorry and told me, "Just pay it off and I would get 0% offers again!"

Sin is that way too! It may look harmless, everyone else is doing it. It is no big deal. Easy terms, no hassles! But little by little, you can't control it — it controls you. I recently asked a teen-ager why he was not worshipping with us on Sundays. His response was that he works six

days a week and only gets to sleep in on Sundays. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy!

It is so easy to skip a Sunday, or two and then since God seems farther away, perhaps you can do other things that God would not approve of as well. I'll start to go to church

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Tending the flock for 102 years*

## Summer Services

Remember we will have TWO Services each Sunday through the end of August. On September 2, Labor Day weekend, we will have only one service at 9:30 AM. Rally Day is September 10 with services at 8:00 and 9:30 AM with our annual picnic beginning at 10:39 AM. Have a blessed summer!

## Thank God for Pastor Al!

Pastor Ed will be gone from July 21-29 and with the youth at Workcamp. If you have a spiritual emergency during this time please call Pastor Al at 462-3703 or try him at his summer home in Wisconsin at 715-635-2718. Pastor Al will also preach for us on August 19.

## Website

St. John's once again has a website. Now we need some volunteers to learn how to maintain this connection to the world outside of Stacy. Could you donate a couple of hours a month? Please contact the office at 462-5115. If you have high speed internet, you can even do this work from home. The website is: [www.stjohnslutheranchurchstacy.org](http://www.stjohnslutheranchurchstacy.org)

## Senior Sunday

Seniors, 70 years of age or older, please call the office at 462-5115 or Linnea Kment at 464-7490 before July 1 if you would like an invitation to the Senior Sunday Potluck, sponsored by the Christian Outreach Committee on July 15, following the 9:30 AM service. Present your invitation at the Christian Outreach table to receive your corsage/boutonniere. You can also register for a small door prize to be given during the potluck. This potluck will honor the senior members of St. John's.

## Hot Cash

Thank you to the Stacy Lent Fire Department for their generous donations to our church. The department has donated an Automated External Defibrillator for our facility. Several people have been trained to use it. This unit is in the hallway outside of the church office. Thanks also for the donation of \$3,800 for our general fund. \$500 of their gift will help our youth to attend the Reach Workcamp in Niagara Falls, New York and the other \$3,300 will help us catch up on our summer bills. Don't forget to put your aluminum cans in their container.

## TAKE STOCK IN OUR YOUTH

Eleven senior high youth and four adults will venture to New York to build confidence and share God's love in Jesus' name this summer. Please pray for our group which leaves July 21 and returns on July 29. Pastor Al and Pastor Ed lead the first Reach Workcamper to Johnstown, NY in 1992. Since then, over 400 youth and adults have participated in summer time outreach to bless others. **We need help this year!** The price of fuel is higher than we anticipated. For only \$10 you can buy a share of stock in our campers which will be good for 1 spaghetti dinner ticket, stories we have to share and a picture slide show in September. Each stock certificate will have the name and picture of one camper. Buy one of each and cover your refrigerator. Each share of stock includes one free dinner. Shares are limited but the benefits in Jesus' name are not. St. John's has always been there to support our youth in this mission of St. John's. For 15 years we've been committed to support our youth as they reach out to other areas of the states and spread the love of Christ to others, many of which have been out of touch with God. Thanks be to God that we have St. John's and great members of this congregation.

## Thanks

Thanks to all who sent cards and memorials for our son Don White. Your outpouring of sympathy will always be remembered.

Mel & Carolyn White



## Gift for our School

God is so good! Fritz's aunt died and left a \$5,000 gift to our St. John's Academy in her will. Ellen Nuechterlein, was 84 years old and never married, but loved children. In her memory, this \$5,000 gift will be used to help expand our second grade and promote Christian Education for our youth. Scholarships for our school are now available. Did you know that last year our first graders were doing third grade work? Imagine the possibilities of smaller classes, more individual attention and Christian encouragement from dedicated teachers. Please consider investing your child in our pre-school through second grade.

## Lifetouch

Christmas is coming! So is Life Touch Church Directories. It has been over three years since we did a pictorial directory for the church. Mark your calendars for October 23-27, 2007 for your chance to receive a free 8x10 photograph and a free pictorial directory of our church members. There is no charge for the sitting. Members may choose packages of pictures that will be ready for Christmas. Watch for more information next month. This year, you can even register your sitting time on line. Can you picture that?

## Stacy Daze August 4

Volunteers are needed to plan and participate in our Stacy Daze Float in this year's parade. This year the church and its schools, Little Angel Preschool and St. John's Academy, would like to work together on a unified float theme. We have been given 500 Disney storybooks to distribute during the parade. Contact the office or Pastor Ed for more information.

## Sign

It is a sign of the times. Special thanks to the church council for ordering the new road signs on Co. Road 30 which tell people where we are. Look for the Big Blue signs later this year.

## Eating for Life

Join us each Monday at 7:00 PM for "Eating for Life." This is not a quick weight loss program. It is a support group for learning to make better choices in selecting the foods we eat. Exercise will be left to the individual and their abilities. Our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit and some of these temples are in need of a renovation. Through small changes, our health can be improved. By improving our health, we can better serve the Lord. Call Eloise Tyren at 651-462-0980 if you are interested.

## Movie Overnighter

All kids entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older are welcome to attend the Movie Overnighter on July 13. We will meet at church at 9:00 PM and travel to the Maplewood Marcus Theatre to see the Harry Potter Movie. We will then return to church and play games with Pastor Tim Wheatley's youth group from Sunburg, MN. Late night pizzas and a continental breakfast at 7:00 AM conclude our event. Cost is \$15 per person and includes transportation, food, lodging, and movie ticket. Permission slips and money must be turned in to the office by July 8. Sorry, no last minute registration.



## Recycling

We continue to recycle cardboard and paper on the second weekend of each month when the paper/cardboard vehicles are here. Please do not pile paper in the parking lot, but wait for our trailer to be here. Please take your aluminum cans to Stacy Lent Fire Hall any time. The fire department will donate money to our church for our ministry. Thank you.

*(Continued from page 1)*

again in the fall. I don't need church every week! Every month! Every year! Christmas is coming you know!

Many of us don't realize that Satan wants to change our spiritual credit score without notice! He wants us to think that we are doing ok. He wants to lull us into thinking nothing will change and then whammo! We are hopeless, helpless, and at the mercy of the evil one. Please remember that it is not about us — rather it is all about Jesus! Recently, 25 youth at Vermilion River Camp memorized several Bible passages. You may need to hear them also. The first is James 5:16: *Confess your sins to one another, pray for one another and be healed.* We need to admit that we have blown it and need help, instead of believing Satan's lies. Another passage that they memorized is John 3:16: *For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.* This is the truth. Believe it and your spiritual credit score can be restored and you will never be slammed! Blessings!

Pastor Ed



## Niagara Falls Workcamp

Please remember to pray for all of our youth and adults that will be spending time building confidence and sharing God's love in Niagara Falls this summer. Adult participants in this years outing are: Lyle Johnson, Linda Miller, Kathy Spiczka and Pastor Ed. Youth participants are: Lynzy Abress, Aaron Barringer, Jamie Cooper, Joy Ford, Kim and Matt Humble, Brett Johnson, Jessie Johnson, Megan Johnson, Crystal Miller, and Leah Oxley.

## Donations

Thanks for the many gifts and donations made to the church in the past. Please be sure to get permission to drop off items at the church. Our fall garage sale is coming up on August 24-25, 2007. Items will be accepted, beginning on Sunday, August 19. Thanks,  
The Stewardship Committee.



## Endowment Fund Meeting

Monday, July 16, is the next meeting for the St. John's Endowment Committee. Mark Federation, a Thrivent representative and a representative of the Lutheran Community Fund, will be available to answer any questions as we set up our fund. The meeting will begin at 6:00 PM and conclude with ice cream sundaes. Everyone is welcome for the ice cream sundaes.

## Toner Cartridges

Praise God! Thanks to all those who continue to drop off empty toner cartridges in the office. We are able to turn them in at Office Max for \$3.00 off per cartridge with a maximum of \$15.00 per order, per day. This is saving the church hundreds of dollars a year on office supplies.



### St. John's Academy Little Angel Preschool

Looking for a Christ centered preschool or elementary education for your child(ren)? Our church offers a **Christian** school with **small teacher to student ratios** and **academic excellence**. Little Angel Preschool is currently enrolling students in morning and afternoon sessions. St. John's Academy is accepting students in their traditional half-day kindergarten through second grade. Please call 651-408-8696.



### Baptism

We rejoice with John and Rosann Glick in the joy of the baptism of their son, Tyler David Glick, Glen and Stefanie McCarty, in the joy of the baptism of their son, Gregory Ernest McCarty, and James and Regina Bartel in the joy of the baptism of their son, Alexander James Bartel. In Holy Baptism, God claims us as one of His own.



Have a Safe and Happy 4th of July!  
God's Blessings,  
The Staff of St. John's

- ◆ *Endowment Fund Meeting*
  - ◆ *Take Stock in Our Youth*
  - ◆ *Thank God for Pastor Al*
  - ◆ *I Was Slammed!*
- Inside This Issue:*

Pastor Rev. Ed Wheatley  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Al Valerius

Website: [stjohnslutheranchurchstacy.org](http://stjohnslutheranchurchstacy.org)

**The Voice of St. John's**  
St John's Lutheran Church  
P. O. Box 308  
31075 Genesis Ave.  
Stacy, MN 55079

Non-Profit Organization  
Postage Paid, Permit #3  
Stacy, MN 55079  
Phone: 462 5115