

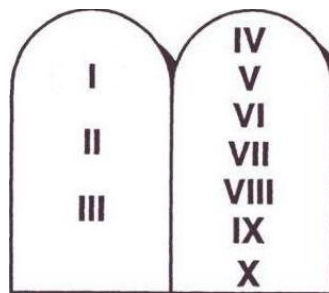
From Pastor Kleinschmidt

Expectations that we have for our schools can be wide and varied. Expectations for a public school should be different than expectations for a Lutheran School. But what about when individual freedoms are infringed upon by our schools?

The Shawano School District has been in the news a lot recently about a student-written opinion piece that was in the student newspaper. It was a Pro-Con piece on whether or not adoption by homosexual couples should be allowed. Some of the ensuing controversy was about whether or not the opinions discussed were bullying, whether or not the school should have apologized for the article, and whether or not the school should have pulled the article from the paper after some initial complaints.

There is much that could be said about this from a Lutheran-Christian perspective. I've talked about it in numerous Bible classes over the last month, but in this article I want to highlight how we should understand the Old Testament Commandments of the Lord.

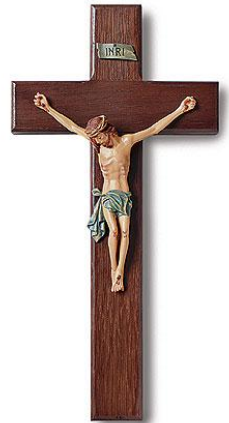
The question is really this: **“Do the Commandments and their subsequent punishments still apply today?”** Commandments like ‘If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.’ (Lev. 20:13)



If we break up this Bible verse then it will make much more sense. First, the actual command from the Old Testament, **the commandment against homosexuality remains in force even to this day.** The New Testament reinforces the reality that homosexuality is a sin and it goes against the natural created order of creation.

Secondly, the punishment specified in Leviticus seems rather harsh; death. And there is no getting around the fact that it is a very harsh punishment. But is that same punishment still the prescription for today as it was for the Old Testament?

The answer is no. For you see, Paul writes to the Romans, **“For the wages of sin is death.”** Death is the punishment for sins. But here in the time after Christ, **the punishment for sin is not laid upon the back of the sinner, but instead is laid across the back of Jesus Christ.** He bears the punishment for sin. When he dies, he dies once for all. Paul continues, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).



Every sin is worthy of damnation, but for those who repent of their sins and have faith in Jesus Christ, there is forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Even for the person assailed by Satan with the temptation to sin sexually, there is hope. Jesus died for that sin and that person.

When we speak to people we know, we should be careful not to elevate one sin as worse than others. For in the eyes of God, all sins separate you from God, but Jesus bridges the gap that our transgressions create.

As Christians we have a duty to uphold the Word of God. That includes speaking the law when we are called upon to. But the Word of the law is not the only Word that God has for people. We are also called upon to speak the Word of the Gospel. The Good News that in Christ Jesus the repentant sinner has forgiveness.

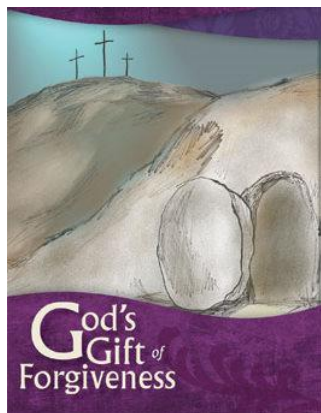
May we be bold and the Lord give us strength to make that counter-cultural confession to people in our community.

In the forgiving love of Jesus,
-Pastor Kleinschmidt

ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

LENT SERVICES AND SUPPER:

Make a weekly habit this year during the season of Lent to attend the Mid-week service along with the supper. Services are at 10:30am and 6:30pm. There is a supper provided between 5:00 and 6:00. This year area Pastors from neighboring LCMS congregations will be sharing God's Word. The schedule is as follows:



- Feb. 22:** Pastor Kleinschmidt on Psalm 6
Feb. 29: Pastor Shoup or Palmer from St. Paul, Bonduel on Psalm 102
March 7: Pastor Eyer from Stony Hill and Zion, Gresham on Psalm 51
March 14: Pastor Zimmerman from St. James, Shawano on Psalm 38
March 21: Pastor Kleinschmidt on Psalm 32
March 28: Pastor Kleinschmidt on Psalm 143

SNAIL MAIL? EMAIL?

You can receive this newsletter in your mailbox at church or by email. Just send an email to stjakobi@frontiernet.net and you will be signed up for email delivery.

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL?

If you have something you would like placed in the monthly newsletter, contact Wendy at 524-4347 or stjakobi@frontiernet.net and she will be sure to include it.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP:

Fellowship will meet on Sunday, March 11th at 12:00 and have lunch at The Gathering. Everyone is welcome to attend. Call Don & Joanne at 526-5315 to make a reservation.

SPRING FORWARD!

Daylight Savings Time begins on March 11th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour so you will be at church on time Sunday morning.

DID YOU KNOW?

Luther in the Small Catechism teaches that *Amen* means, "Yes, yes, it shall be so." The *Amen* in the church service is the possession of the congregation. It is their response to the prayers or blessings spoken by the Pastor. It is the congregation's way of saying they agree with what was just prayed or the blessing that was just spoken.

YOUTH GROUP:

There will be a youth group event March 25th at 1pm. We will meet at the Parish Hall and play volleyball and have a devotion. This is open to 5th through 8th graders and all high-schoolers.

PARISH EDUCATION:

Sunday School is held weekly at 10:30am. The children meet in the Sanctuary for an Opening and then go to their classes in the Parish Hall.

Adult Bible Class meets Sunday morning at 10:30 and continues to study what Christian denominations teach about different topics.

Thursday Afternoon is held at 1pm and studies the Bible readings for the coming weekend.

MEN'S BREAKFAST:

The second Saturday of every month, the men of the congregation are invited to have breakfast in the Parish Hall. Good food and fellowship is followed by a discussion of a topic recently in the news and how Christians react to it. If you haven't come before, come see what it's like.

CHURCH BUILDING LOAN BALANCE:

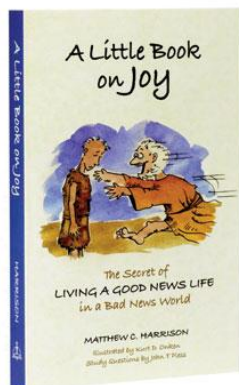
The amount owed for the loan to build the new church at the start of 2011 was \$445,343.92. After making our monthly payments plus some extra on principal, the balance at the end of 2011 was \$418,161.61. Thanks be to God for His blessings.

WOMEN OF ST. JAKOBI!

Because the members of the Ladies Aid were up in years and our numbers dwindling, we decided to disband. Thus St. Jakobi no longer has a Ladies Aid. However, many former members so enjoyed our Bible study topics and a little fellowship we decided we would invite other St. Jakobi women to join us. We plan to meet once monthly at 1pm on the first Wednesday of the month. For those interested, we would continue to gather mites to further mission projects in our Church. The Bible study would last for about an hour and be led by Pastor. After that anyone would be free to leave. Those who have time to spare and would enjoy a bit of fellowship may stay longer. There will be no meeting or officers. We will be the **St. Jakobi Women's Bible Study**. This invitation goes to every woman in St. Jakobi to attend. Please join us as we grow together in our Christian faith.

JOY COMES FROM CHRIST!

Rediscover the joy of being a Christian! LCMS president Matthew Harrison has produced a well written exploration of the nature of life in the fallen world and the joy that we have in Christ entitled *A Little Book on Joy*. Read about the joy of life together in community, marriage, and family, or the joys of humor, worship, the sanctity of life, and the wonders of creation.



Includes:

- Study questions at the end of each chapter, perfect for Bible study or small group study.
- A Prayer Guide for "The Great Ninety Days of Joy" after Joy with texts and prayers from Ash Wednesday through Pentecost.
- "Something to Think About" questions are included at the end of each chapter.

You can order by going to www.cph.org and searching for 124391 or call 800-325-3040

ARE YOU THINKING OF SENDING YOUR CHILD TO A LUTHERAN SCHOOL?

St. Jakobi has funds available to help pay for tuition at St. James Elementary School, Wolf River Lutheran High School, or at Concordia University if your student is majoring in a church-work field. Don't let tuition be a stumbling block to a Lutheran school education. Talk to Pastor if you need assistance or have questions.

UPCOMING READINGS AT CHURCH:

- March 4th:** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Romans 5:1-11
Mark 8:27-38
- March 11th:** Exodus 20:1-17
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 2:13-22
- March 18th:** Numbers 21:4-9
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21
- March 25th:** Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

HHS MANDATE ON INSURANCE AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Recently the Health and Human Services Department of the U.S. Government said that churches and religious organizations would be required to provide coverage for birth control including the morning-after pill which is designed to kill an embryo in the womb. You can read a statement against this action by the President of the LC-MS, Rev. Matthew Harrison at the Synod [website](http://www.lcms.org) (www.lcms.org) or check the bulletin board at church.

UPCOMING SPAGHETTI DINNER:

The Spaghetti Dinner will be held April 22nd from 11am-2pm. There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex for donating bars/tortes and also for helping the day of the dinner. We are in need of a minimum of 25 9x13 pans of bars and tortes to serve at the dinner. Please bring them to the Parish Hall on the 21st or the morning of the 22nd.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

2 - Marcia Buettner
2 - Mark Buettner
2 - Michael Waldvogel
2 - Alexis Dobberstein
4 - Darlene Wendorff
6 - Sabrina West
8 - Mary VanScoik
9 - David Buettner
10 - Lucas Schoenike
10 - Jeff Opperman
10 - Ethan Pleshek
11 - Tabb Magee
12 - Jesse Waldvogel
13 - Jessica McDowell
13 - Joel Buettner
14 - Patti Burr
14 - Sandy Wendorff
14 - Sara Steinke
15 - Kelsie Wendorff
15 - Darwin Drake
17 - Braden Teetzen
17 - Payton Skalitzky
18 - Robert Buettner
20 - Betty Lemke
20 - Lindsey Teetzen
20 - Ethan Magee
21 - Doug Berkhahn
21 - Luella Selle
23 - Emily Pleshek
25 - Scott Kosnicki
25 - Rebecca Blumreich
25 - Connor Stuber
27 - Luke Lindner
29 - Michael Bohm

A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

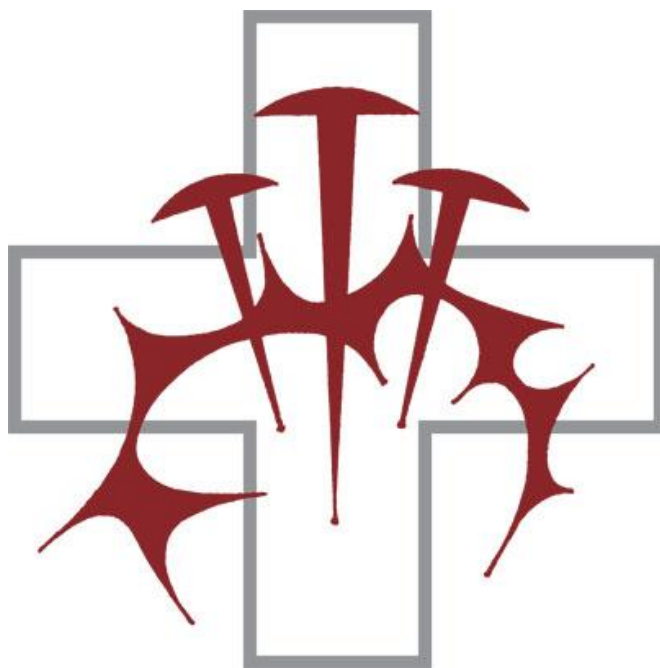
Heavenly Father, our times are in Your hands. Look with favor on name as he/she celebrates his/her birthday. Grant that he/she may continue to grow in wisdom and grace. Strengthen his/her trust in Your goodness and bless him/her with Your abiding love all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

01, 2008 - Justin & Sarah Engel
03, 1973 - Wilbur & Connie Steinke
08, 2006 - Brian & Deana Edelberg
11, 1994 - Carl & Holly Montoure
26, 2010 - Art & Kris Bahr

AN ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE PRAYER

O Lord Jesus, Your mercies are new every morning. We thank You for another year of married life together for name and name. Open their hearts always to receive more of Your love that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, on god, now and forever. Amen.



March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Elders: Sat: Tom Tuma Sun: Don Bublitz Spec: Darryl Prodel	Altar Guild: Laura Prodel, Kathy Fonger, Cindy Craig			1 1:00 Bible Study	2	3 6:30 Service Acolyte: Eli Magee
4 9:00 Service(HC) 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Sommer McDowell	5 6:15 Choir 7:00 Altar Guild	6	7 10:30 Lent Service 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3:30 Catechism 5:00 Supper 6:30 Lent Service Acolyte: Megan Gebert	8 1:00 Bible Study	9	10 8:00 Men's Group 6:30 Service(HC) Acolyte: Kaitlyn West
11 DST Begins 9:00 Service 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Abby Owen 12:00pm Fellowship@Gathering	12 6:15 Choir	13 6:30 Elders Mtg	14 10:30 Lent Service 3:30 Catechism 5:00 Supper 6:30 Lent Service Acolyte: Brittney Angeli	15 1:00 Bible Study	16	17 6:30 Service Acolyte: Kelsey Gast
18 9:00 Service(HC) 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Will Teetzen	19	20	21 10:30 Lent Service 3:30 Catechism 5:00 Supper 6:30 Lent Service Acolyte: Eli Magee	22 1:00 Bible Study	23	24 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Mackenzie Boyles
25 9:00 Service 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Dayton Davis 1:00 Youth Group	26 6:15 Choir	27	28 10:30 Lent Service 3:30 Catechism 5:00 Supper 6:30 Lent Service Acolyte: Sommer McDowell	29 1:00 Bible Study	30	31 Palm Sunday Weekend 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Connor Angeli

Listen to WTCH 960AM or check www.stjakobi.org for weather cancellations.

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church

W 8089 County Rd. A
Shawano, WI 54166
715-524-4347
www.stjakobi.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“We Preach Christ Crucified”



Church Services:

Saturday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am

Bible Study:

Wednesday at 7:00pm, Thursday at 1:00pm, and Sunday at 10:30am.

Sunday School:

Sunday at 10:30am

