CONGRATULATIONS
Jennifer Swedberg and Seth Howard were married on Saturday, October 24, 2009 at our church. Mr. and Mrs. Howard are making their home in Chicago, Illinois.

NOVEMBER 2009 CALENDAR
All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.
* Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.
• Daylight Savings Time Ends – Nov 1*
• Wednesday night Bible Study will meet November 4 & 11 at 6:30pm*
• Choir Practice – Nov 4 & 11 at 7:30 pm*
• International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church – Nov 8*
• Crossroads College Day at church with Fellowship/Potluck Meal – Nov 8*
• Dorcas Fellowship – Nov 10 at 1:30pm*
• Church Board Meeting – Nov 10 at 7:30pm*
• Pine Haven Christian Assembly Annual Meeting at Valley Christian Church in Apple Valley, MN – Nov 14 at 10:00am.
• Building Offering – Nov 15*
• Filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes need to be returned to church – Nov 15*
• Community Choir Practice at Our Savor’s Lutheran church Nov 16 & 23 at 6:30pm (for November 25 Community Thanksgiving Service)*
• December newsletter articles due to Lisa K – Nov 19*
• National Missionary Convention, Peoria, IL – Nov 19-22
• Community Thanksgiving Service at Cleveland School gym – Nov 25 at 7:00pm*
• Thanksgiving Day – Nov 26
• HEART TO HEART item distribution – Nov 28

COMING IN DECEMBER
• Crossroads College Drive-Through Live Nativity, Rochester, MN – Dec 4-5
• Movie Night – The Nativity Story – Dec 6
• Christmas Eve – Dec 24
• Christmas Day – Dec 25
• HEART TO HEART item distribution - Dec 26
• New Year’s Eve – Dec 31

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
Remember Daylight Savings Time Ends on Saturday, October 31. Set your clocks BACK one hour that evening.

CROSSROADS COLLEGE DAY
On Sunday, November 8, we will be privileged to share in worship with the musical team Adoration and Professor Rick Walston from Crossroads College. For many years, we have welcomed representatives of the college to our church so that we can bless each other. The college has blessed our congregation by training leaders who have served our congregation in many different capacities over the years. Graduates of the college have served the Cleveland Church as pastors, elders, teachers, and countless other servant leadership roles.

Our congregation has blessed the college by sending her presidents, professors, students, and financial support. Our relationship with Crossroads College has truly been one of mutual blessing. On November 8, we will get a chance to experience this once again. We will have an opportunity to be blessed by the testimonies and the music of the students. We will have the opportunity to hear sound Biblical preaching from professor Walston. We will have the opportunity to fellowship with these representatives of the college. At the same time, we will have an opportunity to bless them. We will share our entire offering with the college that day. We will share the bounty of our table as we share a meal together. Maybe best of all we will share the love of Christ with them as we try to encourage and support these young people who will be leaders in the church for years to come.
DORCAS FELLOWSHIP
Dorcas Fellowship is open for all women. It meets monthly, typically on the second Tuesday of the month, in the afternoon. The Dorcas Fellowship offers a time to get together to visit but also it is a time to minister. The focus of their ministry is praying for needs they are aware of and sending cards of encouragement. Dorcas Fellowship will meet Tuesday, November 10 at 1:30pm at the church.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING
Members of the Church Board will meet on Tuesday, November 10 at 7:30pm at the church.

BUILDING OFFERING
Our monthly building offering will be received on Sunday, November 15. Thanks to all who have faithfully given to the building fund.

CHOIR PRACTICE
The choir will be practicing on Wednesday, November 4 & 11 at 7:30pm at the church. The Community Choir practice will be held at Our Saviors Lutheran Church on Monday, November 16 & 23 at 6:30pm. This will be for the Community Thanksgiving Service on November 25.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE
The Cleveland Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00pm in the Cleveland High School gymnasium.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY
"3:16" by Max Lucado
We will be finishing up Max Lucado's book 3:16 the first couple of weeks of November. After a short break over the Thanksgiving season, look for a new study beginning in December focused on building strong marriages.

Come join us on Wednesday, November 4 & 11 at 6:30pm as we fellowship, pray and study the height and breadth and depth of God’s love for us.

NEW ORLEANS TRIP
On Saturday, October 10th, six members from the Cleveland Church and a friend from our community joined 23 other Christians from MN and IA on an adventure in service. Nearly 24 hours on a bus brought us to New Orleans. We began our time in the city with a brief bus tour and then we had the privilege of worshipping with an Acappella Church of Christ. The music was a bit different and the skin tone a bit richer, but the spirit of Christ that binds all true believers in Jesus together was present as we shared in worship together.

On Monday, our group was divided into two teams. One team worked with the New Orleans fire department to clean and organize a storage facility that had been accumulating stuff since Katrina over 4 years ago. Our other team partnered with Journey Church, a small congregation that is working to transform an old bowling alley into a community center. Both groups found the work rewarding and greatly appreciated.

On Tuesday through Friday, we had the privilege of partnering with Habitat for Humanity on several different housing projects. We installed siding, soffit, and fascia. We finished off porches and caulked countless seams. We dug post holes and painted and did all we could do to get the houses ready for the next workers and ultimately, maybe as soon as a couple of weeks, for new owners to take possession of their new homes.

On Saturday, we climbed on the bus and headed for home. All of us were a bit more weary than when we left. We endured heat and humidity that made it hard to work some days. But I think, without exception each one who went on the trip would tell you they were glad they went and if circumstances make it possible they would go again at the drop of a hat. This adventure in service was an adventure worth taking.

John Kester, NOLA 2009 team member

DID YOU KNOW . . .
• 29 people attended the Howell’s football party.
• The “HEART TO HEART” personal need products for children and adults are distributed the last Saturday of every month here at the church from 10:00am to Noon. If you wish to donate items to the HEART TO HEART project, information and a place to put donations are located in our church foyer. Donations are welcomed and encouraged on an ongoing basis. Thank you for your help in this ministry!
SEARCH COMMITTEE
The Elders have established a Search Committee to begin seeking an additional paid staff position with an emphasis in Youth Ministry. Committee members are Lois Lloyd, Greg & Neysa Schettler, Pam Aanas, Deb Guentzel, Mark Howells, John Kester, and Gregg Giersdorf (Chair).

The committee’s first meeting was set for October 19 to organize and plan the steps required. The committee greatly seeks the earnest and constant prayers of our church family, asking for guidance, wisdom, and unity of purpose in this new step of faith.

These are some of the goals established for the committee: (1) meet with parents of our youth and concerned adults from our church family for their input; (2) define job description and responsibilities; (3) advertise the position; (4) review suitable candidates and make a recommendation for hiring.

Please contact any committee member with questions and suggestions.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
If you were not able to attend our congregational annual meeting, please pick up a copy of our annual report found on our foyer table. They include information from most all of our yearly activities and functions. They serve as a nice record of our church year which runs from October 1 to September 30 each year.

At our congregational annual meeting in October, the following men were approved by vote to serve our congregation: Elders – 3 yr term: Gregg Giersdorf; Deacons – 3 yr term: Orbbe Chadderdon, Gary Kunz, Greg Schettler, and Ken Schmidt; Church Treasurer – 1 yr term: Mel Lloyd; and Trustees – 3 yr term: Orbbe Chadderdon.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
Only 2 weeks left until November 15! See our Operation Christmas Child display for information to pack a shoebox for a child this year. Filled shoeboxes need to be returned to our church building by Sunday, November 15. If you do not wish to shop, money donations can be dropped in the black mailbox in the church foyer and Julie Dittrich will shop for you. Julie welcomes donations of any dollar amount. Try to make money donations by the first week in November, or sooner, so Julie will have time to shop & pack & return the filled shoeboxes by November 15.

YIKES, only 2 weeks !?!
With your attention gotten, read on. If you are thinking you will submit something for the December newsletter, you’ve got 2 weeks to get it to Lisa, our secretary. Lisa likes to have the monthly newsletter information by the 3rd Thursday of the month for the next month’s newsletter. Think, “Think Ahead!” November 19 is the number for this month. With Thanksgiving coming the last week in November this year, there is greater reason to be on time with your submissions.

Breathe deep. Maybe you can think of it as a small gift to Lisa… she gets your article on time, without asking or emailing you for it, and it is right there for her to begin her job!

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:00 a.m. – Bible Classes for all ages
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

Church Website: www.clevelandchurch.net
Jesus and Me Site: www.clevelandjam.wordpress.com
Office Phone: (507) 931-5924
Office Email: clchurch@live.com
Prayer Chain: clchurchprayer@live.com

OUR HEAD: Jesus Christ
PASTOR: John Kester
CHURCH SECRETARY: Lisa Koppelman


Short Memories
By John Kester, Pastor

Just more than 4 years ago a devastating hurricane hit the Gulf Coast of the United States. Some of the worst damage took place in New Orleans where levees gave way and entire sections of the city were inundated with water. Out of 445,000 people living in the city proper before Katrina, more than half fled the city in the aftermath of the hurricane. The city population dwindled to only about 200,000 people. Today the population stands at a little over 310,000.

When our bus drove through the worst affected areas of the city on October 11, I was appalled to see how little of the city has been restored. House after gutted house lined the streets. In my humble estimation, there are many neighborhoods that are still 90% unoccupied. There is so much work yet to do.

In the days immediately following Katrina, countless groups of people from all over the country and even the world came to help clean and rebuild the city. Many were ready to pitch in and offer a helping hand. But in the intervening 4 years an amazing thing has taken place. Many people have begun to forget the need. Habitat for Humanity has been working diligently to build modest affordable homes in the most devastated areas, but the 30 people I traveled with were the first group from outside New Orleans that came to work and spent a week with Habitat since August. We seem to have such short memories...

It seems to me that this situation demonstrates a reality that many of us struggle with. If we are not confronted, day after day, with what is important we tend to forget. Sometimes we forget that we have made commitments to our spouses, to our children, to our brothers and sisters in Christ, sometimes we even forget our commitments to God. Sometimes we forget our determination to study God’s word. Sometimes we forget how important it is to join with other Christians in worship and fellowship. Sometimes we forget that our character counts and the things we do really matter. It is so easy to forget the things that are important.

Hebrews 10:23-25 says, Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

There is a day coming when it will be too late to go back and make up for the things we forgot to do. That is why it is important that we help each other remember to show acts of love and perform good deeds and to encourage each other as the final Day of history approaches. On that Day, “I forgot” will not be a valid excuse. We need to remember the things that really matter. May we encourage one another to have long memories about the things that are important.