

THE EAGLE

St. John's Newsletter

July 25, 2021

Last week the Sr. High youth who gathered at the Burdicks' for pizza and fellowship studied Luke 21:1-4, the account of the widow's mite. It's a moving story. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3). And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures; who gave her everything she had; who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil; who called her by the gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament; would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts, it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us. We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant (Galatians 4). We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus, moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

So, what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide. We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)!

We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, and without resources for the poor and needy.

In short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us. For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:34-40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said, "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart" (LW 14:240). There is a reason your 10 fingers spread apart. With your hands you catch God's gifts for what you need and let the rest fall through your fingers to your neighbors – your family, your friends, your community, your church.

LCMS Stewardship Thought

Ephesians 3:20 – “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think ...” We often shortchange God by failing to remember what Paul says here: God can do far more than what we can think or ask. His power, and His love, are without bound and without measure. So why do we fear to follow His word? Isn't it in fact fear that keeps us back from a life of joyous generosity and open-handedness? But God is able to do far more abundantly! So let us not be afraid to take the Lord at his Word and live according to it.

Prayer List

Mattie Niccum, Steve Moeller, Linda Miller, Carl Becker, Linda Nolan, Janet Brinkopf, Gloria Fortkamp, Doug Wendte, Brian Wenthe, Deb Meyers, Doris Hammer, Craig Wolff, Cassie Power, Brett Kull, Rose Boggs, Mike McWhortor, Evelyn Shumaker, Shawn Bourland, Pastor Ted Gall, Ann Newton, the people of Haiti, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Sandifer on their marriage yesterday, and the family of Jim Esker

Members of the Armed Forces, including Dylan Koester, Ryan Budde, Paul Smith, Nathan Vail, Jason Mette, Gabriel Walker, Johnathon Schuette, and all first responders of our community and nation.

Next Food Pantry Distribution

Tuesday, July 27 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

July Pantry Donation

Chef Boyardee Pasta in a can
& Snack Pack Pudding

Summer Story Time

The Summer Story Time will be held on Wednesday, July 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Voters Meeting

Will be held on Tues, July 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Golden Eagles

Join us for Golden Eagles on Thurs, July 29 at noon. Please sign up on the main hall bulletin board. There will be a \$3 donation for the meal, and cards & games will follow lunch.

Altar Guild

Altar Guild will be meeting on Tues., July 27 at 5:00 p.m. The group picture will be taken for the new directory at this time.

Sunday School Fall Registration

Kiley Bohnhoff will be set up in the Atrium this Sun. to register your children 3 years through High School for Sunday School this fall.

Your Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

In Person Attendance

Sunday, July 18.....	325
Online Worship Views	59
Sunday School Pre-K-HS	35
Adult Sunday School Class	30

Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund, July 18.....	\$6,718.00
Online General Fund	\$2,385.00
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$9,103.00

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“We need to keep fueled up through Christian fellowship in worship and in the sacraments. We need to pray without ceasing and receive the peace in that special relationship with God. And then, we need to stand strong and boldly declare God’s plan for life. We can’t be timid, afraid to speak up or be noticed. If we don’t share the truth, who will?”

Virginia Flo, Regional Director of Minnesota and National Conference Director, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Church Picnic

This has been scheduled for Sun., Aug. 22 at Noon. It will be held at Ballard Nature Center, and Todd Martin will be grilling. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

150th Anniversary

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Sigel will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Church on Sun, Aug. 8, with an open house from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Rummage Sale/Flea Market Workers

Sign-Up List

There is a Sign-Up List on the bulletin board for volunteers to help with this event. We need volunteers for drop off, set up, event days, and clean up.

E.A.S.T.E.R.

E.A.S.T.E.R. Class is a fantastic blessing, serving our neighbors with developmental disabilities with fun, lessons, love, & the Gospel. The volunteers who run it have been doing it for 45 years! We're privileged to host those classes here at St. John's. On Sun, July 25 at 2:00 p.m. there will be a 45th Anniversary Celebration program by students & teachers at Faith Lutheran in Shumway! If you can attend, please RSVP to Joan Garbe. This is worth celebrating, thanks be to God.

Deepest Sympathy

To the family of Jim Esker. He was the father of Kathy Wall, & was a faithful Christian & had a very long, blessed life. His funeral was Fri., July 23, in Teutopolis.

Shepherding Our Strays

Please have a heart for the inactive members of our congregation! The Elders need & invite your help. On Wed, July 28, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. the Elders are holding a workshop called "Shepherding Our Strays." This is the first big step in reaching out more actively to those people who are members with us, but aren't with us. At 6:00 p.m. on the 28th we start with a free supper, & then go right into the workshop in the Trinity Rooms. We need & invite all members who will help pray for, call, write to, or visit fellow members of the Body of Christ. Please sign up on the main hallway bulletin board. Look for "Shepherding Our Strays." Thank you! Jeff Weis, Howard Janis, Jim Schroeder, Jeff Stremming, Todd Zeigler, Keith Knight, Dave Worman, and Pastor Burdick.

Magazines for You

There are just a few Touchtone magazines on a table in the fellowship hall if you are interested in picking up one of these free copies. This magazine is more theological. The publisher made free copies of back issues available. After you read the magazine, let me know what you think! Pastor Burdick

A Big Thank You

To all who sent cards, visited, or called me for my 90th birthday. It was all very much appreciated. Warren Schlechte

Youth Corner

Cookie Dough & Pizza Order Pick-Up

Pick-up your orders Mon., July 26 between 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

National Youth Gathering Meeting

This meeting is for parents & youth wishing to attend. It will be held Sun., Aug. 15 at 11:30 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. The final commitment date is around the corner.

Rummage Sale & Flea Market

This event will be held August 5-7!

Drop off times will be:

Sun., Aug. 1, Noon - 1 p.m.

Mon., Aug. 2, 8 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tues., Aug. 3, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Set Up Time

Sunday, Aug. 1 at 11:30 a.m. ALL help will be greatly appreciated!

Rummage Sale/Flea Market Times

Thurs., Aug. 5, 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Fri., Aug. 6, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sat., Aug 7, 8:00 a.m.- Noon

Clean UP Time

Sat., Aug 7, Noon to 2:00 p.m.

ALL HELP WILL BE APPRECIATED

Cruise Night

Will be held on Saturday, September 11!

Golf Outing

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 18 for our annual Golf Outing.

Cricut Class

We will be having a class in the Conference Room on Tuesday, July 27 at 1:00 p.m. for training on the Cricut. Kathy Burdick will be the instructor.

High School "Room Revamp" Workday

Sun., Aug. 15th the High School Youth are invited to a work day in our Sunday School classroom after the 2nd service. Come for pizza & help us revamp our LYF room

God's Blessings

To Christopher Sandifer & Cheyenne (Devore) Sandifer on their marriage, which was this past Saturday.

CALENDAR-----July 25, 2021 – Aug. 1, 2021

Sunday	25	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Services w/HC Pastor Olander will be preaching
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		9:15 a.m.	Transfer the Blessings Presentation
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
Monday	26	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Cookie Dough & Pizza Pick-Up
		6:30 p.m.	Board of Early Childhood
Tuesday	27	1:00 p.m.	Circuit Class
		3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
		5:00 p.m.	Altar Guild (picture)
		7:00 p.m.	Voter's Meeting
Wednesday	28	1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotions/Meeting
		6:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Shepherding our Strays
		6:30 p.m.	Children's Story Time
Thursday	29	All Day	Youth to Holiday World
		12:00 Noon	Golden Eagles
Friday	30		
Saturday	31	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Sunday	1	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Services
		9:15 a.m.	Hayden Renser Speaking during Adult SS No Children's Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
		11:30 a.m.	Set up for Rummage Sale
		Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Drop off for Rummage Sale

Birthdays This Week

- 07/25 Brady Scott, Elena Niebrugge, Jason Wendling, & Norma Larson
- 7/26 Ella Niebrugge, Patsy Latch, Tyler Pilcher, & Watson Brown
- 7/27 Laura Jeffries & Rebecca Hewing
- 7/28 Joanna Goldstein
- 7/29 Chad Nelson, Jared Probst, Jill Wendling, & Michelle Holland
- 7/30 Amy Miller, John Schoenhoff, & Melia Wendling
- 7/31 Kyle March, Ruth Kohnert, & Ruth Rhodes

Anniversaries This Week

- 07/27/74 Jim & Rosie Gibbons
- 07/27/96 Jason & Kim Niebrugge
- 07/28/18 Nic & Madelyn Koester

- 07/30/04 Randy & Amy Kohnert
- 07/30/05 Todd & Julie Zeigler
- 07/31/60 John & Ruth Holland
- 07/31/76 Dennis & Bonnie Siebert

Hayden Renser



Sunday, August 1, we will host Hayden Renser (pictured to the left on a medical mercy trip) as our guest speaker during adult Bible Class at 9:15am. Hayden has recently

graduated from college and has been extended a missionary assignment by our Synod to serve in the Czech Republic. She will share with us how she'll serve the people there with the Gospel and mercy. Come hear this dynamic young lady and the exciting news of how we can support her.