

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter October 23, 2022

Next Sunday is Reformation Sunday (and the observance of LWML Sunday). We will remember Luther and worship Jesus, not the other way around.

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. Years before that, the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: **"We are all beggars. This is true."** And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free.

Ironic, isn't it? In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God, like the infants in today's Gospel reading. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven't gotten them one. We might feel we owe them. And we don't like being in someone's debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted like an infant – helpless, dependent, and poor. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: *He gives us everything.* Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn't because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true. This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us

and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn't because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled **"We are all beggars. This is true."** We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

In the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace. The riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion – are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are **inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise. That joyful response is ... stewardship.**



Hayride & Weiner Roast Was a Great Success



Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month.
We are so blessed to have 2 of the best:
Pastor Michael Burdick

&

Pastor Gary Fortkamp

Thank you for all you do here at St. John's. May God continue to bless you, your families, and your ministry! Be sure to tell them how much you appreciate all they do!

Prayer List

Irene Esch, Chad Nelson, Nacho Castillo, John Lin, Richard Ohnesorge, Vera Huey, Marlene Haake, Heather Davis, Becky Fielitz, Tatum Garcia, Shirley Cheadle, Owen Phelps, Dan Chambers, and Jan Martins.

All Members of the Armed Forces, Ryan Budde, Bryce Ikemire, and all first responders of our community and nation.

Your Response to the Gospel
Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday October 16..... 321
Sunday School..... 41
Adult Sunday School 40
LifeLight 10

Our Offerings October 16, 2022

General Fund..... \$10,723.15
Online General Fund \$1,588.86
Total Gen. Fund Offering..... \$12,312.01
Building Fund..... \$250.00

September 2022 General Fund Summary

Deposits \$53,681.36
Expenditures \$67,742.96
Ending Balance \$75,545.47

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“We may think our prayers are small in relation to the magnitude of the problem of abortion. Not so! Educate yourself, your children, and the people you know, about Lutherans For Life ... Support leaders who embrace these words, ‘All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.’ ... We have the most hopeful message the world has ever heard. You know it. God does big things with small stuff. How can we be so sure? Shiphrah and Puah, Jochebed, Miriam, and Moses ... and especially Jesus.”

Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

The Next CALL Meeting

Will be on Thurs., Nov. 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Be a part of the Haiti Hunger Fight

Sun., Nov. 13 at noon. This year, there are 2 generous donors who have agreed to match donations, & in some instances the donation may be DOUBLE matched. Be sure to check the flyer and information sheet on the bulletin board.

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Halloween Parade

Sunday, October 30th

St. John's Online Shirt Store Sales

Tues., Oct. 25th is the last day to order!

<https://www.sportdesigns.net/sjlc.html>

This Week's Sunday School Lesson

Joshua 3:1-4:18

“The Land at Last” is the title for today’s lesson. For forty years, the Israelites wandered on sandals that didn’t wear out and ate daily doses of manna. Following Moses’ death, Joshua prepares to lead a new generation into the Promised Land. This time, the floodwaters of the Jordan River stand in the way; but, hearkening back to the Red Sea crossing, the people pass through on dry land as they gather twelve stones for a memorial to God’s faithful care for His people. As a family, discuss how God leads us today.

St. John's Online Shirt Store

Tues., Oct. 25th is the last day to order.

Here is the shopping link:

<https://www.sportdesigns.net/sjlc.html>

Stewardship Moment

“And he said to him, ‘Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.’” The great Lutheran musician J.S. Bach composed a beautiful motet using this verse. It is the cry of true faith, much the same as Peter’s words: “Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” True faith clings to the Lord no matter the struggle, no matter the “hard sayings” that the Lord speaks. True faith knows that God means to bless us always.

Golden Eagles

The next Golden Eagles will be held Thursday, October 27th, at noon. Be sure to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board.

Financial support of the Lord's work includes Gifts Now, Gifts in the Future, Gifts spread over time. After contemplating, many realize spreading inheritance over time to their heirs is the better idea, so that lump sum inheritance doesn't encourage squandering those funds. The same can be true for gifts to ministry. Gifts to ministry spread over a period of years is called Personal Endowment. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Scott Radden, Gift Planning Counselor, at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnd.org for more information.

5th Sunday Door Offering

The door offering on Sun., Oct. 30th will go to LWML to help support their missions.

East African Mission Trip

Would you be interested in doing an East African Mission Trip? Norbert Soltwedel, of Faith Lutheran Shumway, is considering leading a team to Kamuli, Uganda on Feb. 1-12, 2023. The team would conduct a weekly Bible School & construct play ground equipment at a Lutheran Elementary School. Team members would meet for pretravel planning in January, fly from Chicago to Entebbe, & stay the first & last night in Kampala. While in Kamuli, the group will stay at a local hotel & be bussed to the school each day. The team is in need of 10 individuals to lead singing, crafts, Bible Stories, basic construction skills, & interact with the children. Members should have an adventurist spirit but it is not a difficult experience. Meals, lodging, & transportation will be provided. Estimated total cost is \$2,000/person, & the group may want to do fund raising to reduce this cost. If interested, or have questions, call Norbert at 217-868-2833 or email soltk@frontier.com

Food Pantry Updates

Have you ever been curious to see how the food pantry mission operates? If so, come to the pantry at 1 p.m. this Tues., Oct. 25th.

We would love to have you!

Food Pantry Donations for November

Sloppy Joe's, saltine crackers, variety pasta, and spaghetti sauce

The Next Distribution Day

Tuesday, October 25th from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Living with Grief

Will meet on Tues., Oct. 25th at 10 a.m. at St. John's. Lesson 5 will be taught by Pastor Burdick.

Built on the Rock

St. Paul's Lutheran Church 150th Celebration

The final celebration of our 150th anniversary will be the weekend of Oct. 29th & 30th. Memorabilia display from Noon - 4:00 p.m. on the 29th, and also on Sun. Sunday worship at 10 a.m. with guest pastor Rev. Martin Kaufmann, son of former pastor Rev. Phillip Kaufmann. A German luncheon will be provided. Check out the flyer on the bulletin board.

The Call Committee

Has notified the Central Illinois District that we are proceeding with calling an Associate Pastor. We ask the members of St. John's to...

- Pray that we will be ready and willing to carry out the mission God has given us.
- Pray for wisdom in the nomination and selection process.
- Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send the associate pastor in His time and manner.
- Submit names of pastoral candidates for our associate pastor position during October.
 - It is not necessary that the pastor you are suggesting knows about, or consents to, your submission of his name at this time.
 - The pastor must be on the clergy roster of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

To submit a name for consideration:

- Take a nomination form from the Welcome Center. (Forms available Sept. 25 – Oct. 31)
- Place the completed form in the offering plate during any worship service between Sept. 25 – Oct. 31

The associate pastor will work alongside Pastor Burdick, working first in all dimensions of our ministry and later specializing in those areas that Pastor Burdick, the Associate Pastor, & congregational leaders believe best match the needs of the congregation and the gifts of the pastor.

It is likely that we will not be calling until early 2023. The Lord will provide. May His will be done!

St. John's Call Committee

Sandy Bernhard, Holly Bray, Pastor Burdick,
Ray Hartman, Dan Jansen, Jerry Lindsey,
Jeff Weis, Sandy Wieneke, and Dave Worman

Important Upcoming Meeting **Voter's Meeting**

Will be held on Tues., Oct. 25 at 7:00 p.m.

CALENDAR-----October 23, 2022 – October 30, 2022

Sunday	23	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Services w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
Preschool Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.			
Monday	24	6:30 p.m.	Board of Early Childhood
		7:00 p.m.	Lutheran Care Board of Directors
Tuesday	25	10:00 a.m.	Living with Grief Class at St. John's
		3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
		5:00 p.m.	Altar Guild
		7:00 p.m.	Voter's Meeting
Wednesday	26	10:45 a.m.	Preschool Parade, Fall Pumpkin Party
		1:00 p.m.	Staff Devotions/Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		5:30 p.m.	Bell Practice
Thursday	27	10:45 a.m.	Preschool Parade, Fall Pumpkin Party
		Noon	Golden Eagles
		4:45 p.m.	Stephen Ministry
Friday	28		Pastor's Sabbath
Saturday	29	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		5:30 p.m.	Reformation Celebration Worship Service w/HC 5 th Sunday Free Will Offering for LWML Mission
Sunday	30	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Reformation Sunday Worship Services w/HC 5 th Sunday Free Will Offering for LWML Missions
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
		2:00 p.m.	Halloween Parade

Birthdays This Week

- 10/23 Alan Bahrns & Wesley Osborn
- 10/24 Arabella Flach, Bob Brinkopf, Collin Hecht, Reagan Keck, & Rosie Gibbons
- 10/25 Becky Bailey & Erica Marxmann
- 10/26 Derek Sanders, Kohen Baker, & Pat Wendte
- 10/27 Carolyn Campton, Kathy Giesler, & Lois Budde
- 10/28 Brooke Haller, Margie Sidwell, & Nathan Bahrns
- 10/29 Carol Althoff, Luca Keitel, & Zac Bloemer

Anniversaries This Week

- 10/23/76 Lee & Karen Hartman
- 10/29/16 Brennan & Darcie Buening

Altar Guild

Will meet on Tuesday, October 25th at 5:00 p.m.

Men's Breakfast/Bible Study

We will meet at 8:00 a.m at Niemerg's on Saturday, November 5th.

If you have any questions, please contact Gayland Bourland (217-343-4366). Hope to see you all there.

Women's Breakfast/Bible Study

We will meet at 8:00 a.m at Niemerg's on Saturday, November 5th.

If you have any questions, please contact Renee Kremer (217-821-3142). Hope to see you all there.