

# St. John's Monthly Newsletter

## January 2018

### The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod | Stewardship Ministry

#### Newsletter Article: January 2018

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless. But it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions: Who are you? To whom do I give? And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the Small Catechism informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties and our questions arise in giving to the church.

So, what is our duty as members of the church with regard to giving? The Table of Duties, again, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer, a member of the church who receives instruction, St. Paul taught: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor. 6:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

Check out our website!! [www.stjohns-mattoon.org](http://www.stjohns-mattoon.org)

## Serving this January:

**Elders:** Mark Ewald & Chuck Miller

**Altar Guild:** Toni Miller, Therese Miller

**Ushers:** 8:00 am: Clayton Wohltman

10:30 am: Todd Thoman

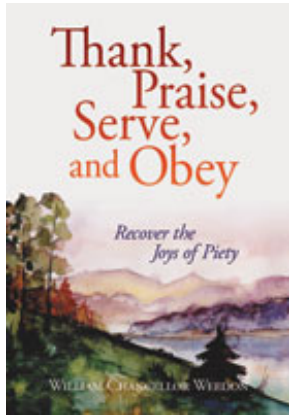
**Acolytes:**

JANUARY	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
7	MILES HARLIN	JACK PIERCE	GRACE NIEMEYER	SAMMY CORDES
14	GRACE LANGE	OLIVIA LAWLER	JOSH SIPES	JACK PIERCE
21	CHRISTIAN LARSON	LANEY BRANDENBURG	MARLEY VANHOVELN	BROOKLYNN RANKIN
28	KAYLIN RICHEY	OLIVIA LAWLER	MILES HARLIN	ZACH WETZEL

## Book of the Month:

**Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety**

**Piety has fallen on hard times.**



Some associate it with its evil twin, pietism, and reject piety based on the incorrect assumption that the two are one and the same. Pietism is inwardly focused, obsessed with carefully following spiritual to-do lists and rules. Piety, rather, fights against that inward focus, turning our attention out toward God and His promises and toward our neighbor in love and care. Piety is simply the cultivation of godly habits—habits that befit the household of God, the family of our heavenly Father.

In *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety*, Martin Luther's small catechism and the Book of Concord serve as our trusty roadmaps as we explore how to properly hear in the Scriptures our heavenly Father summoning us to the joy and freedom of living and growing as His beloved children through Jesus Christ.

***Call or email the church office if you want us to order for you!***

## Prayer Requests:

### Those In Need of Comfort, Health, & Recovery: (Recently Added)

Toni Hesse

Paul Welton

Martha Spencer

Sara Doehring

Richard Grice

Leland Moffett

Carol Welton

Nedra Rauch

Judy Yott – Aunt of Pastor Jacobsen

Auggie Doehring – Brother of Derald Doehring

Rose Weber – Mother of Julie Gass

Helen Conrady – Niece of Derald Doehring

Russ Smith – Father of Todd Smith

Dan Johnson Jr. – Son of Dan and Virginia Johnson

Carol McDaniel – Sister of Doug Blume & Nancy Gass

### For those Serving Our Nation:

John Mauck (Okinawa)

Jason Wetzel - stationed in Afghanistan

### Those Who Need Our Ongoing Prayers:

Edith Creek

Roland Dahnke

Richard Woelber

Sarah Hocking

Grace Lee

Warren Moody

Maxine Oeltjen

Janece Neunaber

Pastor Paul Garchow

Laura Pointon

Sue Kroening

Erika Kremitzki

Pat Smith

Oliver Countryman

Norma Schussler

Martha Spencer

Paul Welton

William Kroening

Ava Gass

John Kendall

Howard Diepholz

Bob Zschau

Linda Morgan – Friend of Joyce Zschau

Bob Pierce – Father of Tina Smith

Kevin Shaffer – 2nd Grade Teacher's Husband

Dan Kruger – Brother of Pat Wetzel

Steven Easton – Fern Ostermeier's Son

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

- 1 - Mark Bell, Adam Diepholz
- 2 - Tyler Wetzel, Lisa Noffke, Jane Kendall, Keith Bowman, Joe Dosien, Amanda Fox
- 3 - Virginia Johnson, Kent Schmidt, Bruce Prevo
- 4 - Bill Eisel, Blake Fairchild, Joseph Haskins, Kesia White
- 5 - Heather Davis, Elaine Brandenburg
- 7 - Kelly Allee, Kelsey Farmer, Beau Hill, Hunter Levingston, Todd Miller, Mia Hanse
- 8 - Lori White, Austin Wetzel, Walter Mueller, Vincent Fanelli, Taylor Hawkins
- 10 - Josh Stortzum, Christian Eaton
- 11 - Kalib Miller, Nakaela Miller
- 12 - William Weichel, William Rasmussen
- 13 - Freda Diepholz, Chad Larson
- 14 - Davis Diepholz, Grace Harlin, Melvin Pierce
- 15 - Zackery Peadro
- 16 - Jacob Kettleson, Teresa Lane, Jack C. Pierce, Robert Hocking, Paisley Montgomery
- 17 - Tom Seaman, Ruby Buesking, Liam Hocking
- 18 - Marguerite Lavingston, Brookelynn Rankin, Mike Salinas
- 19 - Curtis Zschau, Addison Orris, Hayla Hudleston
- 20 - Jennifer Schaal, Clayton Wohltman, Jason Winders, Norma Mussman
- 21 - Nathaniel Stoll, Veyda Shirley
- 22 - Stepani Atkinson, John Bridges, Caleb Borntrager, Christopher Havlik
- 23 - Madison Mauck, Carlie Fuqua, Joan Kirk, Jeri Morris
- 24 - Shelby Phipps
- 25 - Kim Ervin, Mitchell Wirth
- 26 - Lucas Dosien, John Garrison, Ryan Salmon, Don Traub
- 27 - Jill Deitz, Kaitlyn McDevitt, Alvin Schaageman
- 28 - John Sipes
- 29 - Rachel Farmer
- 30 - Kimberly Prince, Emma Doehring, Molly Doehring
- 31- Tina Kidwell

## Anniversaries

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Michael & Melissa Por Jan 2, 2010       | Grant & Kathy Tice, Jan 14, 2006        |
| Todd & Angela Ernst Jan 3, 1997         | Roland & Janet Dahnke, Jan 15, 1961     |
| Phil & Peggy Kepp Jan 3, 1971           | John & Kathy Garrison, Jan 16, 1998     |
| Michael & Christi Diepholz, Jan 7, 1967 | John & Patricia Snyder, Jan 18, 1992    |
| William & Barbara Weichel, Jan 8, 2000  | Don & Frances Bareither, Jan 21, 1962   |
| Richard & Kim Fanelli, Jan 8, 1994      | Misty & Randal Rhoads, Jan 30, 2008     |
| Brian & Gina Jones, Jan 9, 1999         | James & Marjorie Anderson, Jan 31, 1960 |

<b>Rev. Adam Jacobsen</b>	Senior Pastor	714-1965	revjacobsen@stjohns-mattoon.org
<b>Miguel Ruiz</b>	Dir. Parish Music	719-849-0120	mruizmusic@gmail.com
<b>Bailey Maldonado</b>	Church Secretary	234-4923	bailey@stjohns-mattoon.org
<b>Trent Duckett</b>	Principal	234-4911	tduckett@stjls-mattoon.com
<b>Joyce Zschau</b>	Parish Nurse	234-8227	joyce_zschau@yahoo.com