

St. John's Lutheran Church & School
Monthly Newsletter
August 2018

REAL. PRESENT. GOD.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

Wow. Summer is all but gone! School will be starting up on August 15, and that will put another Summer in the history books for us here at St. John's. So many great and wonderful things have happened over this summer and many sorrows came as well. On the upside of Summer, we have started the expansion of our classes at St. John's Lutheran School and invited several awesome new teachers to our staff. We also began work toward our 125th Anniversary Celebration this upcoming September 30th. On the other side of the coin, we laid to rest several dearly beloved members of our congregation. As Job says, "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the Name of the Lord." Job 1:21

Yet through the ups and downs the ins and outs, our God is still present with us. That's the theme of our school year this year at St. John's: Real. Present. God. Our God is real, He lives, He hears, He answers prayer, He is present for us in His Word and Sacraments, and He is our God. Based on our theme verse above we learn to rely on our Heavenly Father through all of life's changes and chances, trusting that His way is always best.

How magnificent it is to believe in a God who is truly present for His people. Yet it is our distinct Lutheran understanding of God's presence which makes us all the more joyful. God isn't present in our lives based on how we feel or don't feel, he isn't present based on our works or lack thereof, he promises to be present with us in His Word and Sacraments, places where we can find Him every time. It doesn't matter if you've been through sorrow, disease, joy, or health God is present for you right here at church. Remember Jesus Himself promised this presence, "Where two or three are gathered in my Name there I am with them also." Matthew 18:20

So no matter where you are right now in life, no matter how you feel today or don't feel; no matter where you've been, know this: Jesus is here present for you in Church. He guides you by the instruction in His Word, he places himself in your hands in His Body and Blood for your forgiveness, and He gives you a place of forgiveness and fellowship. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, your Jesus is Real. He is Present. He is God.

Blessings,

Pastor Jacobsen

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
August 2018 Newsletter Article**

When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4). It's a moving account. 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 (Gal. 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 Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Cor. 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, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, 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 (Matt. 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.

Birthdays:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 9 | 18 | 24 |
| Karen Kearney | Zachary Wetzel | Paul Welton | Sharon Price |
| Emily Stortzum | 10 | Garrett Jones | Virginia Mueller |
| Lucia Jacobsen | Michael Alwardt | MacKenzie Alwardt | Ashlynn Smith |
| 2 | Dennis Burtard | 19 | Barbara Weichel |
| Marlene Petak | William Kidwell | Mark Degler | 26 |
| Carolyn Smith | Rick Mann | Cristian Sweeney | Sandy Meridith |
| Andrea Walker | 11 | 20 | 27 |
| 3 | Pam Hensley | Christina Stortzum | Edith Creek |
| Darrell Zschau | Leslie Donnell | 21 | Zack Prevo |
| Ethan Tice | Sammy Harris | Lynn Farmer | 28 |
| 5 | 12 | Sara Doehring | Shirley Donnell |
| Joy Adkins | Kris Maleske | Steven Kleiboeker | Kim Fuller |
| Stacy Lee | 14 | 22 | 29 |
| 6 | William Lawler | Dylan Harper | Pat Wetzel |
| Karen Johnson | 16 | Courtney Martin | Connie Smith |
| 7 | John Noffke | 23 | 30 |
| David Phipps | Taylor Orris | Andy Adair | Lynne Wolf |
| 8 | Helen Smock | Sarah Jacobsen | 31 |
| Tiffany Wolf | 17 | Dustin Rhoads | Philip Kepp |
| Christine Adair | Madison Harris | Todd Fuller | |

Anniversaries:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Paul & Carol Welton August 1, 1971 | Barb & Mike Love August 17, 1991 |
| Mark & Carol Ewald August 3, 1968 | Todd & Holly Thoman August 17, 1985 |
| David & Cynthia Phipps August 5, 1989 | Curt & Linze Niemeyer August 19, 2000 |
| Doug & Laura ZuHone August 7, 1982 | Roger & Karen Kearney August 21, 1964 |
| Travis & Stephanie Upton August 7, 1999 | Edwin & Pat Wetzel August 21, 1954 |
| Christopher & Erin Wetzel August 8, 1998 | Jeremy & Amber Harlin August 23, 1997 |
| Brian & Christa Packer August 10, 1991 | Don & Gail Traub August 26, 1972 |
| Anthony & Bailey Maldonado August 14, 2004 | Kerwyn & Karen Stoll August 27, 1989 |
| Dennis & Lynne Titus August 14, 1982 | Doug & Lynn Blume August 29, 1981 |
| Mary & Dennis Bahrns August 15, 1992 | |

Serving this August:

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|---------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Elders: | Tyler Lucier & Michael Gass | |
| Ushers: | 8:00 am: Lowell Miller & Laverne Schaal | 10:30 am: Roger Tice & Verna Tice |
| Altar Guild: | Tina Smith & Janice Mann | |
| Acolytes: | <i>**A new 3-month listing will go out via email and be placed on the ledge by August 6. Thank you for your patience!</i> | |

Prayer Requests:

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

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|--|---------------|---|---------------|
| Derald Doehring | Caralea Smith | Art ZuHone | Bonnie Kenney |
| Marquita Miller – Mother of Jennifer Smith | | Ronnie – Brother of Connie Elder | |
| Joan Zauner – Friend of DuFrain's | | Jack Galeotti – Infant of a friend of the Crackel and Ferree Family | |
| Margie Leihy – Friend of DuFrain's | | | |

For those Serving Our Nation:

John Mauck (Okinawa)

Those Who Need Our Ongoing Prayers:

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| Ava Gass | John Kendall | William Kroening | August Stortzum |
| Howard Diepholz | Bob Zschau | Alan Phelps | Art ZuHone |
| Roland Dahnke | Chuck Cookson | Richard Grice | Bill Moran |
| Oliver Countryman | Pastor Paul Garchow | Mae Morris | Bonnie Kenney |
| Paul Welton | Norma Schussler | Carolyn Phillips | |
| Paul Morrison – Father of Barb Kirts | | Judy Yott – Aunt of Pastor Jacobsen | |
| Emily Roth – Tom Roth's Mother | | Dan Kruger – Brother of Pat Wetzel | |
| Ruth Jubelt – Jane Roth's Mother | | Bob Pierce – Father of Tina Smith | |
| Alydia Brylowski – Friend of the DuFrain's | | Rose Weber – Mother of Julie Gass | |
| Bob Hagen – Brother in Law of Margaret Hagen | | Ken Maleske – Father of Kris Maleske | |
| Lydia Fenton – Relative of the Wetzel & Severson Family | | Carol McDaniel – Sister of Doug Blume & Nancy Gass | |
| Auggie Doehring – Brother of Derald Doehring | | Vida Bruss – Sister of Mark Ewald | |
| Kathy Beaver – Friend of Joyce Zschau | | Kevin Shaffer – Husband of Lynn Shaffer (St. John's 2nd Grade Teacher) | |
| Dan Johnson Jr. – Son of Dan & Virginia Johnson | | | |

News, Events, and Announcements:

Mark Your Calendar: September 30, 2018 is our annual church picnic. Dr. Dale Meyer of Concordia Seminary St. Louis will be preaching for our 125th Anniversary Celebration. We will have one service at 9:00 am followed by our annual church picnic. Hope to see you there!

Mid-Year Statements: Mid-year giving statements were mailed out. If you have any corrections, please contact the church office.

Church Council Meeting: There will be a church council meeting on Monday, August 13 at 6:00 pm. If you are on a board or committee, please ensure someone from your committee can attend.

Ladies Aid will be supporting the backpack program again this year. The program begins this month. We will be collecting mac-n-cheese cups and fruit cups. The fruit cups are the plastic cups that contain peaches, mandarin oranges, or mixed fruit. We are not collecting juice boxes this year. You may leave your items in the totes at the north and west doors. Thanks for helping us support the backpack program.

Courtyard Thank You: The Ladies Aid would like to thank the anonymous donor of the patio set for the courtyard.

New Member Class will start August 22. Many of our members are planning to attend. This is a good chance to review basic Christian teachings. Who can you bring? Invite someone to the class!

Book of the Month:

Overview

When Martin Luther paired simple graphics with the profound teachings of the Small Catechism, it was nothing short of revolutionary. He presented families with a handbook for learning, thinking, and speaking about the Christian faith.

Five hundred years later, we revisit Luther's ideas with the visual format of *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation, 2017 edition*. Presented in an easy-to-navigate format with colorful spreads, engaging illustrations, charts, and callouts, this accessible, open-design layout lets you experience the catechism like never before.

