



St. John's Monthly Newsletter

December 2018



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

Throughout his epistles and his preaching recorded in the Book of Acts, St. Paul refers, in one way or another, to thanksgiving and thankfulness nearly 50 times. Whether vertically toward God, or horizontally toward the neighbor, thanksgiving is a major theme within St. Paul's body of work.

What does this mean? It means thankfulness is intrinsic to the life of those baptized into Christ. In other words, giving thanks is what Christians do as they live out their lives in this world.

The problem is that we often forget this. Consider your average, run-of-the-mill, normal day. When you get home, and your parents, your spouse or your children ask about your day, what first comes to your mind? After 99 percent of things went right, went exactly as planned, were enjoyable and blessings, we tend to focus on and remember the 1 percent of things that went poorly, that didn't go as planned, and that were nuisances.

We remember the bad things. We focus on discontent. And we fail to give thanks in all circumstances for everything (Eph. 5:20) and to rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4).

Thankfulness and contentment go together. We are content with things for which we are thankful. St. Paul could be content with having plenty or when in need because He gave thanks to the Lord for all things. He thanked the Lord for those who had prayed for him and listened to his proclamation of the Gospel. He gave thanks for their good works in and for the Church of Christ. He gave thanks for the grace of God in Christ Jesus and found that God's grace was sufficient for him.

So, give thanks for all things and in all circumstances dear brothers and sisters in Christ. For you have been saved from sin, death, and hell by the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. You have been added to the very family of God in an adoption of grace through Holy Baptism. God is your Father. Our Lord, Jesus Christ is your brother.

But He not only provides for your spiritual well-being, He cares also for this body and life. Your Father in heaven provides food and clothes, house and home, husband, wife, and children. He gives you reason and all your senses. He has given you the raw talents that you have developed into careers. Everything you are and everything that you have is a gift from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in you.

Give thanks for these things. Make a list – every morning if you must. Say them out loud. Sing about them within the congregation of the saints. And remember this: God has given you these things so that you may be of service to those around you – your family, your neighbors, your brothers and sisters in Christ. For to whom much is given; much shall be required (Luke 12:48).

Serving this December:

Elder: Andy Adair
Assisting: Brock Montgomery
Altar Guild: Teresa Lane, Janice Mann, Susie Miller
Ushers: 8:00 am – Mark Uphoff 10:30 am – Randy Ervin

DECEMBER	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
2	CORBIN RICHEY	KAYLIN RICHEY	OLIVIA LAWLER	LEXI SAUNDERS
9	LANEY BRANDENBURG		AIDEN COOK	VAUGHN PRINCE
16	ASHLYNN SMITH		ABIGAIL NIEMEYER	NINA STORTZUM
23	MILES HARLIN	JOSH SIPES	ZACH WETZEL	ANDREW WETZEL
30	NOAH WALKER	NOAH LANGE	MARLEY VANHOVELN	BROOKLYNN RANKIN

**Volunteer acolytes needed for Christmas morning (9:00 am) & New Year's Eve (5:00 pm)

Prayer Requests:

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

Marilyn Perryman	Robert Koelling	Brad Harper
Adam Fonner – Grandson of Kim & Joe Fonner		Helen Conrady – Niece of Derald & Sara Doehring
Steve Owens – Nephew of Edith Creek		Nate Maxedon – Larry & Nancy Maxedon's Grandson

For those Serving Our Nation:

John Mauck (Okinawa)

Those Who Need Our Ongoing Prayers:

Ava Gass	Bob Zschau	Carolyn Phillips
Howard Diepholz	Joyce Zschau	August Stortzum
Roland Dahnke	Chuck Cookson	Art ZuHone
Oliver Countryman	Norma Schussler	Robert Koelling
Paul Welton	William Kroening	
John Kendall	Alan Phelps	
Judy Yott – Aunt of Pastor Jacobsen		Ken Maleske – Father of Kris Maleske
Dan Kruger – Brother of Pat Wetzel		Vida Bruss – Sister of Mark Ewald
Bob Pierce – Father of Tina Smith		Dan Johnson Jr. – Son of Dan & Virginia Johnson
Rose Weber – Mother of Julie Gass		Carol McDaniel – Sister of Doug Blume & Nancy Gass
Jack Galeotti – Infant of a friend of the Crackel and Ferree Family		
Kevin Shaffer – Husband of Lynn Shaffer (St. John's 2nd Grade Teacher)		

December Birthdays

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| 1- Brooks Overton, Sarah Hocking | 10- Herman Janssen, Jessica Atwell |
| 4- Fisher Porter, Troy Walker, Sarah Shepard | 11- Tina Prior, Jane Roth, Stacy Pierce, Holly Thoman |
| 5- Connie Elder, Therese Miller | 12- Janet Alwardt, Pastor Jacobsen |
| 6- Heather Veach, Clarissa Kidwell, Melissa Wirth | 13- Laney Brandenburg |
| 9- Johanna Crackel, Kendra Montgomery | 14- Travis Bartels, Judy Schagemann, Cayla Duckett, Jaime Bartels |
| 14- Travis Bartels, Judy Schagemann, Cayla Duckett, Jaime Bartels | 17- William Lee |
| 15- Samantha Cordes, Melanie Havlik | 18- Grant Tice, Wendy Patterson |
| 16- Chloe Fuller, Michael Gass | 27- Alexandria Saunders |
| 19- Shelby Youngblood, Mallory Duckett, Marlee Duckett | 28- Peggy Salmon |
| 21- Kyle Thompson | 29- Gail Moore, Ronald Curry Jr. |
| 23- Melvin Hawkins | |
| 25- Corinne Thomley | |
| 26- Deborah Schaljo, Morris Miller, Kacie Rankin | |
| 30- Kira Wolf, Rebecca Furry, Lori Croft, Brennan Tomer, Gabriel Tomer | |
| 31- Travis Upton | |

December Anniversaries

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| William & Vicki Rasmussen December 9, 1995 | William & Tina Kidwell December 28, 1991 |
| Lowell & Wanda Miller December 9, 1961 | Jennifer & Billy Love December 28, 2012 |
| David & Lynne Wolf December 17, 1998 | Tyler & Heidi Lucier December 29, 2007 |
| Dustin & Courtney Rhoads December 22, 2007 | Dennis & Karen Johnson December 31, 1975 |
| Dean & Emily Marsland December 24, 1955 | Todd & Jennifer Smith December 31, 2004 |
| Bill & Linda Kull December 27, 1991 | |

A Few 2018 Advent/Christmas Notes:

The St. John's Preschool Christmas program will be Thursday, December 13 at 6:00 pm in the gymnasium. Please join us!

Cookie Walk: St. Johns is having the annual cookie walk on Saturday, December 8 from 8 AM to 11 AM in the fellowship hall. Proceeds will go to the new St. John's service team. Bring your favorite Christmas cookie to the church kitchen Friday afternoon. Please put your name and kind of cookie on the labels provided and place on a disposal Christmas tray. Christmas items will also be available for sale. Please bring your donated items to the church the week before December 8 and place in the library. If you have any questions, call Chris Diepholz at 254-5437.

2018 Christmas Cantata: The Christmas cantata will be held on Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00 pm. Mark this beautiful service on your calendar! You won't want to miss it!

St. John's School Christmas Program: New this year!! St. John's Lutheran School invites you to their K-8 Christmas program to be held on the **campus of Eastern Illinois University in the Doudna Fine Arts Center**. We have outgrown the gym and will be presenting this year's program in this 568 seat, state of the art facility. Please join us on December 20 at 9:30 am or 6:30 pm. Classes at EIU are not in session during this time, so there will be plenty of parking and seating. Turn south off of Route 16 onto either 7th or 9th Street. There is parking on the street, at the Union, and at parking lots very near Doudna from 9th Street. For the evening performance, doors open at 6:00. Call the school office with any questions.

Mid-Week Advent Services
Wednesdays, 8:30 AM and 7:00 PM
December 5
December 12 (*Choir Cantata 7:00 PM*)
December 19

Choir Cantata
Wednesday, December 12
7:00 PM

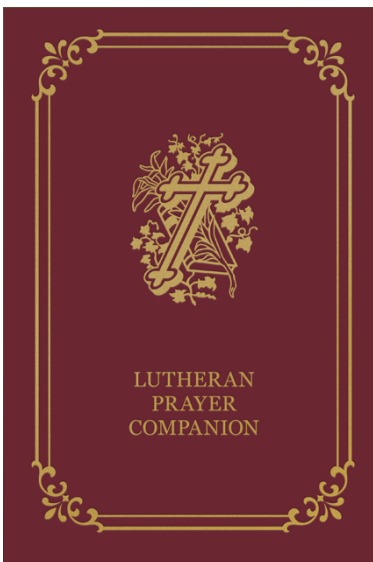
What Child is This? Christmas Program
Monday, December 24
4:00 PM

Candlelight Service w/*Holy Communion*
Monday, December 24
11:00 PM

Christmas Day w/*Holy Communion*
Tuesday, December 25
9:00 AM

New Year's Eve w/*Holy Communion*
Monday, December 31
5:00 PM

Book of the Month:



The Lutheran Prayer Companion is the first-ever English translation of the German Evangelical-Lutheran Prayer Treasury, featuring prayers written by Luther and other church fathers. Nearly 500 prayers that cover almost any situation, every Sunday in the Church Year, and each day of the week
Over 100 hymn texts
Beautiful gilded cover
Topical prayer index
When you don't have the words to pray, when you feel unsure in your prayers, when you are struggling to pray—turn to these prayers rooted deeply in God's Word. These prayers will certainly enhance your prayer life, draw you closer to your Savior, and inspire your own prayers.