

St. John's Monthly Newsletter

October 2019

LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – October 2019

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. And 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? That, in order to be free, you must be a beggar; you must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas or birthday present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't much like being in someone's debt.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. But we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. And this is His legacy to the Christian Church. 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.

And, if we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. 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 is not because of any worthiness or merit in us, but 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. And you receive. 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 life-blood of the Christian Church. God justifies us, and He declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This is not because of our works; this is 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 would point 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, 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.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – even in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless, we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace.

So inexhaustible are the riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism and Holy Communion – that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are not only inexhaustibly satisfied but have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

Serving this October:

Elder: Mike Stortzum **Assisting:** *fluctuates weekly*
Altar Guild: Barbara Degler
Ushers: **8:00 am** *need volunteers* **10:30 am** – *need volunteers*
Acolytes: see 3-month schedule on the ledge, please.

Book of the Month:

Portals of Prayer Devotional Bible

by Concordia Publishing House



Students of God's Word—men and women, young and old—will appreciate this devotional Bible that draws readers to the works and promises of God through the Scriptures, and encourages God's people to live each day in Jesus' name.

Portals of Prayer Devotional Bible provides the entire English Standard Version (ESV) translation of Scripture and 700 devotions to encourage readers to dive deeply into the most beloved and significant passage in the Scriptures.

As individuals read through the Bible, they will benefit from specifically chosen devotions from Portals of Prayer, a quarterly devotional magazine that has been a favorite of generations of Concordia Publishing House readers since 1937, that will help them unfold important passages and better understand how Scripture is highly applicable to their lives today.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1- Robert Arnholt, Chip Eads, David Uphoff, Brianna Rankin, Jeff Prior
2- Cynthia Miller, Vicki Rasmussen, Kerwyn Stoll
3- Ruth Reynolds
4- Maurine Kull, John Kendall
5- Jaren Woelber, Bill Gass
6- Dan Johnson
7- Maryann Uphoff
8- Bill Kull
9- Wanda Hesse
10- Thomas Donnell, Don Sweeney
11- Janet Harper
13- Jaclyn Atwell, Dennis Johnson, Laverne Schaal

14- Lauren Haskins, Brenda Severson
15- Rachel Ervin, Dale Trimberger
17- Cynthia Phipps
19- Noah Walker
20- Laura Seils
21- Zachary Bowman, Christi Diepholz
22- Cory Hill, Ethan Pierce
23- Verna Tice, Linze Niemeyer
27- Wayne Reel
28- Steve Degler, Jennifer Shafer, Norma Schussler
29- Kaylee Croft, Cynthia Overton
30- Kimberly Mauck, Lori Rankin, Caroline Martin
31- Margurite Petak

Anniversaries

Bradley & Traci Harper October 7, 1995

Kurtis & Tracie Rankin October 7, 2000

Erik & Tara Stortzum October 9, 1999

Robert & Joyce Zschau October 10, 1970

Jon & Lori Croft October 11, 1997

Andy & Christine Adair October 15, 1983

Joe & Kim Fonner October 28, 1978

Wayne & Laveta Reel October 28, 1951

Chad & Heidi Larson October 31, 2000

Church News, Events, and Announcements:

Chapel Date Change: Please note, chapel will move from Wednesday, October 9 to Monday, October 7 at 8:30 am. Chapel will resume on each Wednesday at 8:30 am on October 16.

Don Sol Day: Craving Mexican food? Need an excuse not to cook? On Wednesday, October 9, from 11:00am–9:00pm, 10% of the sales at Don Sol will be donated to St. John's Lutheran School! Dine-in or Carry-out.

Donor Wall: Thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2019-20 Donor Wall Campaign! We are writing a check for \$8,600 to go directly toward the principle of the debt! It's never too late to give (and get your name up on the wall)! Just bring a check into either the church or school office.

Nomination Committee: The 2019 nomination committee is Chris Adair, Kyle Thompson, and Nancy Gass. If you're interested in running for a board or committee, please contact one of these individuals. The nominating committee is finalizing the ballot by Monday, October 21 in order to meet the requirements of the constitution. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting. *Absentee voting is permissible two weeks prior to meeting.*

2020 Committee Budgets: All committees need to have budgets turned in by the end of October. Then they can be submitted to the church office.

Voters Meeting: Mark your calendars for a Voters Meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 7:00PM. It has been moved due to Veterans Day on Monday.

Free Light Bulbs: Check out the light bulbs in the fellowship hall. These light bulbs were donated to St. John's. Please take what you want and put a donation in the can. Proceeds will be used by Ladies Aid to purchase items for the church kitchen. Thanks for your support.

Scholarship Fund: Don't forget we have a scholarship fund you can give to! The fund is getting low and we'd like to make sure it's replenished for the next school year. We would like to help as many kids as possible receive a Christ-centered education here at St. John's and we don't want finances to be a reason they aren't able to come. Determinations are made in the spring.

Adult Choir: The choir season is off to a great start! It's never too late to join. Rehearsals are 7:00-8:15pm on Wednesdays. Come join us! ~ *Rev. Peter Eckardt*

Women's Expo: Do you have a home-sold business? If so, we would love you to bring your business to our Women's Night Expo on Friday, November 15, 2019 from 6-9 pm. Contact Chantel in the school office to get your application today! Applications and fees are due no later than October 15, 2019! *St. John's families have the first opportunity to register your business.*

Trunk or Treat: Plan ahead for Trunk or Treat on **October 25 starting at 6:00 pm.** We're requesting candy donations and trunks. Trunk sign-ups begin Oct. 1. Please join us! Contact Cynthia Bowen or the church office if you'd like to decorate a trunk.