

ST. JOHN'S MONTHLY

St. John's Lutheran Church and School Newsletter



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THE FUTURE LOOKS... FEARFUL

by Pastor Mark Bersche

We never know what the future will hold. This was the dilemma of the disciples after the resurrection. They had been completely caught off guard and were quite uncertain about what might be the right next move. This is the problem in life, we don't know what the future holds, but our comfort must be in the fact that we know who holds the future.

Isn't it interesting how the disciples were dumbfounded when Jesus had already told them multiple times precisely what would take place? He had spoken word for word and blow by blow what was about to

happen in Jerusalem, but they never quite connected the dots. From the women shocked at the tomb, the disciples hiding in the locked room, and the two on their way to Emmaus in Luke 24, none understood.

So, what about us? How much do we understand and are we really paying attention to what is written in God's word? I am shocked at what people post on Facebook and other social media concerning theology. Sure, some people get things right, but most seem to be statements of morality rather than being justified by the blood of Christ.

Many people today worry about the future and the lack of knowing what it holds. This is understandable from a worldly point of

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THE FUTURE LOOKS... FEARFUL

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view, but if you place your trust in the one who does hold the future, then there is nothing to fear. What can anyone possibly do to you?

In Matthew chapter ten, Jesus discusses this issue of being persecuted by others: *“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”* [Matthew 10:26—33 ESV]

Jesus' point is clear. If your whole world collapses tomorrow, if all you've ever worked for and built suddenly comes crashing down, if your entire support system caves in, you've lost nothing providing you belong to him. Because those who are washed in the blood of the spotless Lamb have nothing to fear.

This is why it's so important to remain in God's word and attend worship in His house as this gives us strength and builds stronger faith and love. Jesus will never abandon nor forsake us, for He is the way, the truth, and the life. In Him, we possess a kingdom that will never end. Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Bersche



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR

Join us on Sunday, April 14 as the Sunday School Kids will be singing during the second service. We hope to see you there!



Join us for a fun evening at
Pryor's Pizza


**Great Food, Indoor and Outdoor
Seating, Play Area for Kids and
much more!**

April 27, 2024

5:00 pm

Pryor's Pizza Kitchen

**18932 Selah Way,
Norman, OK 73072**



OKLAHOMA DISTRICT 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



**OKLAHOMA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD
1924 - 2024**



Oklahoma District 100th Anniversary Celebration: Plan now to attend the district's 100th anniversary celebration, to be held at St. John's, Okarche, on May 19. St. John's was the site of the first Oklahoma District Convention held in 1924. The Matins Service will begin at 4 p.m., followed by a centennial banquet at 5:30. Honored guests will include Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President, LCMS as preacher and readers Rev. William R. Diekelman, former Oklahoma District President and Rev. Justin Panzer, Kansas District president. The music will include an adult choir formed by a collection of members from Oklahoma District congregations and a children's choir formed by a collection of members from Oklahoma District Lutheran Schools.

The theme verse for the celebration is taken from Psalm 28:7, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him." Truly, the strength, protection, and help of the Lord have carried our district as part of the Lord's Church for the last 100 years. In remembering our Lord's goodness during this blessed gathering, we thank Him and worship Him together. Learn more about the celebration and RSVP by March 28 at oklahomalutherans.org/100.



LWML Oklahoma District Convention 2024
Hilton Garden Inn, Edmond, OK
April 12-13, 2024



Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bible Study Leader: Janice Wendorf, Past LWML President

Speakers: Mary Hamilton, Deaconess Dr. Tiffany Manor, David Fiala, John Busch

Find "Gifts from the Heart" list on registration form, *The Voice of Service*, or on oklwml.org. Servant Activities and Interest Sessions are on Friday at 3:30 p.m.

Registration form can be found in *The Voice of Service*, on the website oklwml.org or from your LWML Group President. Register early by March 12!

Childcare is available and listed on the registration form. Must register for childcare by March 29.

APRIL

This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings.

Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from Lutheran Women in Mission at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!



1. For us to be "fools for Christ" (1 Cor 4:10).
2. For LWML Mission Grant #8.
3. For the LWML Michigan District.
4. For Eritrea, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
5. For your pastor and his family. Send them a thank you note.
6. For the opportunity to pay it forward at a drive through today.
7. For the country of Estonia.
8. For the many blessings in your life.
9. Praise the Lord for having Easter in our hearts every day.
10. For our Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Gospel Outreach.
11. For those who work in the harvest field.
12. For immigrants.
13. For LWML Mission Grant # 9.
14. For the opportunity to invite a friend to dinner and pray how you can bless them.
15. For your LWML group.
16. Praise God for our founding fathers and a godly heritage.
17. For your own district grants and mite goal.
18. For the homeless in your community.
19. For the country of Finland.
20. For our national LCMS President and Board of Directors.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #10.
22. For Gods' wonderful creation of the earth.
23. For the LWML Indiana District.
24. For the country of France.
25. For delivery people. Thank them and give them a sweet treat.
26. For law enforcement officers. Thank them when you see them.
27. For the country of Ghana.
28. For people who are in school to be pastors and church workers.
29. For being able to be still before the Lord and know that He is God.
30. For the country of Guatemala.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

April 1: Gwen Boland
April 3: Brian Levendusky, Joyce Wallen
April 4: Sean Waugh, Cynthia Boykin
April 5: Brandon Dailey, Hayden Flake
April 6: Jeff Groh, Arianna Roggow,
Austin Tollers
April 7: Marilyn Henderson
April 8: Bobbye Lannom
April 10: Mary Straka
April 11: Debra Hogue
April 12: Logan Carter
April 13: Keith Schoolcraft
April 15: Keith Stuewe
April 16: Rick Harpham
April 17: Sarah Holley
April 19: Sam Boland
April 20: Kari Willis
April 22: Judy Cregan
April 25: Reese Harding, Porter Self
April 26: Theresa Roggow
April 27: Jane Leeper
April 28: Peter O'Loughlin

Anniversaries

April 3: Ethan & Kylee Graumann
April 12: Bruce & Charlotte Baird
April 26: Ian & Joan Adams
April 27: Anna & Eugene Johnson
April 30: Larry & Darlene Grummer



MISSIONS UPDATE

To support Rev. Bryan and Deaconess Keah Payne's mission to Tanzania and/or to support the family, go online to: www.lcms.org/payne. The Payne family is now in Africa beginning the work they've been called to do.

APRIL 2024

Events subject to change. If in doubt, contact the activity coordinator!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 9:00am Chapel 11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Service	4 9:00am Quilters	5	6
7 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	8	9 11:30am Senior Saints	10 9:00am Chapel 11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Service	11 9:00am Quilters	12	13
14 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	15	16	17 9:00am Chapel 11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Service	18 9:00am Quilters	19	20 8:00am Men's Bible Study
21 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23 11:30am Senior Saints	24 9:00am Chapel 11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Service	25 9:00am Quilters	26	27
28 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	29	30				

PUBLISHING DEADLINE

All articles for the May 2024 Newsletter will be due April 24. Please email your articles to office@stjohnsmoore.org. Thank you!

