St. John Journal

reaching the lost
teaching the found
loving like Christ

November 2020

Thank, Praise, Serve and Obey

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. ***For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.***

(Luther's Small Catechism, First Article of the Creed)

We find ourselves well into the fall, into November, and we find ourselves at the time where we as a society take time to give thanks. But, this year, it feels rather forced, doesn't it? Certainly, sometimes it feels like we have more to be thankful for, and sometimes less. This year, though, seems like one of those times where our list of things to be thankful for is at an all time low. Between the halting of life as we knew it and the unrest and strife that has ensued, it seems like we don't have much to hold on to. But, even now, in the midst of what seems like a time where there is nothing to be thankful for, God is still providing richly for you, as we find in this first article of the Creed. The providing of all of these things--those things which are needed to support this body and life, defend against danger and all evil, which God provides richly and daily—is a mark of an active God.

Perhaps you've heard the idea of a "clockmaker god," or a god that creates the world but then has nothing to do with it beyond its creation, only leaving it to spin as it may. This is not our God. He continues to provide for us, defend and protect us in the midst of all things, even in the middle of what appears to be the worst of times. Why does God do this? It isn't because of anything that you or I have done, no merit or worthiness in us, but rather it is all about God's fatherly, divine goodness and mercy. Notice that our thanksgiving does not merit God's fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, but rather is a result of it. Because of all God has done for us, it is our duty to thank, praise, serve and obey Him, not out of force but rather as a result of the good done by God.

Even in the midst of what seems like a lot of misfortune and even when life is at an all time low, your God still is providing for you all the things you need for this life. Your God has given much for you and, as a result, it is our duty to thank, praise, serve and obey Him, in good times and in bad. A blessed Thanksgiving season to you all!

Join us for Thanksgiving services on
Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 PM
Thursday, November 26 at 10:00 AM

IN Memory – For All The Saints

Oh, Blest Communion, fellowship divine!
We Feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine,
Alleluia! Alleluia! *LSB 677 v.4*

As November 1st comes, we celebrate with the whole church on earth All Saint's Day. A day which provides us a time to pause and reflect on the gift of salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a day in which we pause and remember those who have gone on before us and are now in the presence of Him who saves us.

This verse above gives us a great reminder about the fellowship we have with those who have passed. Stanza 4 presents the contrast between the saints who have fought and won and those who are still fighting here on earth. Just look at the second line – **WE feebly struggle, THEY in glory shine**. The third article of the Apostles' Creed reminds us of the union we have – *the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints.* This word – Communion – stresses the close relationship between saints on earth and saints above.

And so we sing with strong voice and with confidence that through the communion we share with those who have gone on before us, a great cloud of witnesses, we will ever be triumphant with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This year, we remember with God's grace, those who now in glory shine:

Dorothy Schneider
Jim Geiss
Robert Johnson
Jermaine Yonke
Elma Gruetzmacher
Arline Smith
Jim McGarigle
Sue Kufahl
Walter Plautz
Darlene Hanneman
Dorothy Schroeder
Joyce Henrich
Robert Hoff
Robert Smith
Clarence Polasek
Nathalie Tank
Frederick Muschinske
Marlene Saal

The Happenings – Communion services

Here at St. John, as the threat of this Coronavirus has come fully to us here in town, we pray for those who have lost loved ones during this time and those who are struggling. But we persevere. With the grace of God we move on knowing that nothing is out of God's hands, and all will be done according to God's will.

With that said, here at St. John we only have one change – We have cancelled TUESDAY NIGHT COMMUNION SERVICES. This was done primarily due to the low numbers of people coming in during that time. **We will still have Tuesday Afternoon Communion services from 1-3 PM.**

If these times do not work, please call the church office and the pastors will make appointments for communion. I hope and pray that we can all be thankful for the gifts God has given to us, and continue to serve each other and treat each other with kindness and love.

If you are not comfortable with worshipping in person yet, that's okay. The Saturday and Sunday services will continue to be streamed live on Facebook and the Sunday service will be broadcast on 730AM and 96.3FM at 11:30 AM each week. If you are enjoying the services on the radio, please prayerfully consider sponsoring a service.

We are mailing or emailing the orders of worship to our shut-ins and to others that have requested a copy. If you would like to be included, please contact the church office.

This year we will celebrate Mission Sunday the weekend of November 7, 8, & 9. Our focus will be on the current missionaries we sponsor. Please use your Mission envelope or a blank envelope to contribute toward the work being done by our missionaries. Please mark your donation as going to David Baker, our missionary in Central Asia, Gbarnga Mission, or Kipp & Tammy Beaudoin, missionaries in the Ukraine. Unmarked envelopes will be divided among the groups. Thank you for your continued support of all those spreading the Gospel.

Hello, my name is Anna Wiesneski and I am the daughter of Mike and Spring Wiesneski. I am also currently a sophomore student at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon, WI. I am here to receive not just my elementary education teaching license, but also my LCMS certification as I plan on teaching at specifically Lutheran elementary schools. I aspire to be a first or second grade teacher within the next two years. At this moment, I am preparing to begin Upper Division Status applications. UDS is part of Concordia's and the Department of Public Instruction in Wisconsin's way of certifying that education majors are prepared for student teaching and job placements. There are interviews to be had, papers to write, and forms to fill out before I receive UDS certification but I am excited to be getting close!

I would like to say thank you to all the staff and the congregation here at St. John for all the care and support I have been shown growing up. It is so wonderful to know that my church is still reaching out and helping me while I am away at college and moving out into the world. Receiving this scholarship is such a blessing to me as I continue my education and look to share and nurture faith in students of my own some day.

God's Blessings, Anna Wiesneski

St. John Ladies Aid will be taking orders for Thanksgiving Pies (Pumpkin, Apple, Dutch Apple, Rhubarb and Cherry). Cost will be $12. Deadline for ordering pies is Friday, November 20. Pies can be picked up on Wednesday, November 25 from 1:00-5:00 PM. Call Gloria at 715-536-2483 to place your order.

It's time to think about ordering knives for Christmas gifts. I will be placing an order mid-November to ensure delivery before Christmas. There are books on the greeting card stand in the church basement and in the church office. Call Marlene by November 17 at 715-536-4848.

The St. John School Board is looking for an energetic, motivated person, or maybe two, to head up the next St. John Auction. Although COVID has put many things on pause, it's never too early to start planning the next auction. There's even the possibility of a virtual auction. If you are interested, please contact the school or church office. This is a great opportunity for service to our church and school!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS

Thanks to your generosity we made our goal of surpassing last year's total of 313 school kits for LWR. We put together **327** kits and delivered them to Wausau for shipment to the LWR Warehouse in Minneapolis.

Thank you to those who donated school supplies, or gave monetary donations to purchase supplies. Thanks also to Thrivent for the Action Team money.

Thank you to those who helped to sew bags, string bags, fill bags with supplies or delivered the boxes for shipment. We would especially like to thank our sewers for all their time sewing and our super shoppers for finding us the best prices on school supplies. Those helping with this were: Sandy Berndt, Kay Klug, Noreen Brandt, Laurel Steinagel, Jan Black, Noelle Stine, Kathy Sheridan, Kathy Seubert, Penny Pehlke, Dave Schulz, Bob Roggenbuck, Polly Schneider, Judy Wery, Gary Porath, Nancy Porath, and Julie Gehrmann.

We plan to continue this project next year as there is a great need for the school kits in poverty stricken areas.

UPDATE FROM THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT (GIVING TREE) TEAM

It is with extreme sadness that we are announcing that the Christmas Spirit program will be put on hold for the 2020 Christmas season. Due to the restrictions in place with COVID, and so much unknown, the opportunities for toy drives, tag distribution, fundraisers, collections, and all the planning and meeting that goes into it just cannot be guaranteed. We plan on taking this hiatus to brainstorm and improve upon our system so that the 2021 season can come back better and stronger than ever.

We recognize that the need for programs like this may be greater this year due to the hardships that people have faced. We implore you, if you are able, to take your generosity and use it in another way. Donate to a food pantry, help a neighbor or family member in need, or donate to a local charity. In addition, all funds donated and intended for the Christmas Spirit 2020 season will be carried over for next year.

We thank you so much for your understanding in this matter and look forward to being back next season.

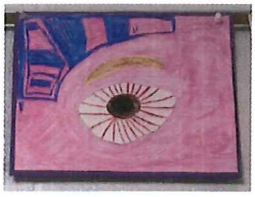
Thank you,

The Christmas Spirit Team & Merrill Fire Dept. Tree of Hope

Greetings from St. John School
We pray that all of you had a blessed Reformation,
and that your faith is strengthened daily.

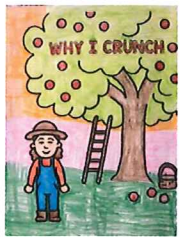
SCRIPTURE ALONE
GRACE ALONE
FAITH ALONE

October 8th was Apple Crunch Day! Students colored apple tree pictures, and enjoyed an outdoor picnic lunch in the prayer garden, thanks to Miss Coleen and Miss Paulette All together now,
"CRUNCH!!"

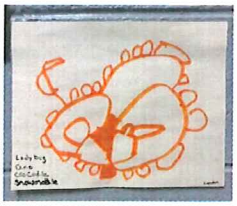


For the last couple of years we have been choosing a "Student of the Week". Students are nominated and selected by teachers. Is the student responsible? Hard-working? A good friend and classmate? Thoughtful and kind? These are qualities teachers look for in choosing a "Student of the Week". Those receiving this honor in October (thus far) were Izabella Erickson, Tyler Scott, Lily Dallman, and Mia Smith.

Congratulations!

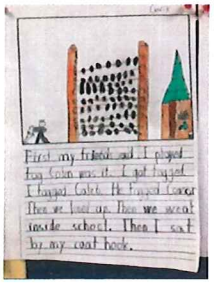


Let's take an art tour through our school! The pictures you see decorating this page are beautiful examples of the variety of art projects completed this school year. Thank you to Mrs. Fritz (art teacher for grades 4-8), the primary grades' teachers, and all the students.



The Veterans' Day observance will not include a program in the gym this year. Instead, classrooms will put pictures and decorations in the windows of their rooms, to be seen from outside by anyone passing by. Students in grades 6-8 enter their essays for the Patriot's Pen contest, writing on the topic: "What is Patriotism to me?".

In music class we are advised to not do much singing, so we are exploring other ways to experience and learn about music. This is a great opportunity to learn about our Divine Service I in LSB, becoming familiar with the various parts of the service, what they mean, and why we use them. Hymn tunes are used to teach and learn music theory. Other activities include watching videos of the great musician, Leonard Bernstein, teaching about music as he addresses children in his "Young Peoples' Concerts". Music appreciation is also taught using the online "Classics for Kids" program that introduces great composers like Robert Schumann, Aaron Copland, and Leonard Bernstein.



Teaching, Training, and Nurturing God's Children

"Train up a child in the way he should go; when he is older he will not depart from it."

Guatemala Update

Due to COVID-19, the Guatemalan borders are still closed to our mission team. All mission events have been cancelled through April of next year. Our Guatemalan missionaries are still making house calls to deliver much needed food, medicine and share the Gospel through house visits. At this time, we have no way to send supplies to Guatemala, so we are raising money to help them purchase food and medicine and enable our Guatemalan missionaries to continue to share God's word. Watch for the coffee sales in November, the egg roll sales in January to continue to support our Guatemalan mission. I am deeply saddened to not make the trip this year but will continue to offer prayers for everyone's health and safety. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers.

MILTON - we met Milton as we were walking through the village making 'house calls'. He had never had a missionary visit him before and was so happy we came and welcomed us to read the Bible and pray with him. Milton attends the 'sinners church'. I have mentioned before that the sinners church was formed when the current church in the area said you had sinned or you couldn't financially support them, you were barred from attending that church. The sinners church was formed for all those who had been removed from the church.

Milton was tall for a Guatemalan but very thin, only weights 100#, and very athletic. He was in his 50's and has never been married. His sister died a few years ago and he took her children in to live with him. Only one of them still lives there, a 16 year old nephew. The nephew works on the rubber tree fields. The children's father took the younger three children to the United States to live there. The kids have lived in Houston, Louisiana and Maryland as illegal immigrants. He knows that is wrong but he has no control over what the father does. He has not heard from them in a couple years.

Milton could read and had his own well-worn Bible. Milton works on the sugar cane farm repairing their equipment. When he is home, he repairs tv's, cell phones, bikes and any piece of equipment he can get his hands on. He has been doing this since he was 15. We asked where he found the equipment to repair as there is no electricity or cell towers in this area. He did not know how to answer and there was plenty of equipment in his yard! Milton loves riding his bike. He said he made the bike out of parts from other broken bikes. He competes in bike races and was so proud to show us a trophy. The calendar Milton is holding is from 1992 and is a picture of the place he now lives. The road we walk is an old railroad right of way and his home was the depot. How things changed after their civil war.

Milton's prayer requests are for safety for his niece and nephews, for his continued health so he can continue to work and live to be 90 years old!

Milton's favorite Bible verse is Psalm 25:6 - 'Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old."

Until next time, Praise and Thanks to God, Sandy Berndt

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

DATE	SCRIPTURE READINGS		DATE	SCRIPTURE READINGS
November1	Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 21:1-22		November 16	Jer. 31:1-17, 23-34; Rev. 16:1-21; Matt. 27:1-10
November 2	Jeremiah 1:1-19; Matthew 21:23-46		November 17	Jer. 33:1-22, 34:1-36:32, 45:1-51:64; Matt. 27:11-32
November 3	Jeremiah 3:6-4:2; Matthew 22:1-22		November 18	Jer. 37:1-21; Rev. 17:1-18; Matt. 27:33-56
November 4	Jeremiah 5:1-19; Matthew 22:23-46		November 19	Jeremiah 38:1-44:30; Matthew 27:57-66
November 5	Jeremiah 7:1-29; Matthew 23:1-12		November 20	Daniel 1:1-21; Matthew 28:1-20
November 6	Jeremiah 8:18-9:12; Matthew 23:13-39		November 21	Daniel 2:1-23; Revelation 18:1-24
November 7	Jeremiah 11:1-19:15; Matthew 24:1-28		November 22	Daniel 2:24-49; Revelation 19:1-21
November 8	Jeremiah 20:1-18; Matthew 24:29-51		November 23	Daniel 3:1-30; Revelation 20:1-15
November 9	Jeremiah 22:1-23; Matthew 25:1-13		November 24	Daniel 4:1-37; Revelation 21:1-8
November 10	Jeremiah 23:1-20; Matthew 25:14-30		November 25	Daniel 5:1-8:27; Revelation 21:9-27
November 11	Jeremiah 23:21-40; Matthew 25:31-46		November 26	Daniel 6:1-9:27; Revelation 22:1-21
November 12	Jeremiah 25:1-18; Matthew 26:1-19		November 27:	Isaiah 1:1-28; 1 Peter 1:1-12
November 13	Jer. 26:1-19; Rev. 13:1-18; Matt. 26:20-35		November 28	Isaiah 2:1-4:6; 1 Peter 1:13-25
November 14	Jer. 29:1-19; Rev. 14:1-20; Matt. 26:36-56		November 29	Isaiah 5:1-25; Amos 1:1-9:15; 1 Peter 2:1-12
November 15	Jer. 30:1-24; Rev. 15:1-8; Matt. 26:57-75		November 30:	Isaiah 6:1-7:9; 1 Peter 2:13-25

GIFTS FOR PINE CREST RESIDENTS

To our friends in the community,

Christmas is right around the corner! Thanks to your generosity in the past, we were able to give a Christmas gift to each resident. Once again, we are asking that you consider donating Christmas gifts and/or money allowing Pine Crest to purchase specifically requested gifts.

We ask that donations be turned in to Pine Crest by December 11, 2020 to allow us time to shop, wrap and assign suitable gifts to each resident. Thank you so much for your consideration and support. We are very proud to live in such a caring community!

Please le me know if you have any questions.

Brianna VandenHeuvel, CTRS
Life Enrichment Supervisor
Pine Crest Nursing Home

LIST OF ITEMS NEEDED:

3M Hooks
Body spray/Cologne/Perfume
Nice Body wash
Brewer Things
2021 Calendars
Candy, some sugar free
CD Players
Chocolate
Nail Polish
Neck/Travel pillows
Nightgown (non-silky)
Packer Things
Picture Frames
Playing cards
Robes
Sachets
Comfortable Clothes (new ONLY, stretch waist band)
Scarves
Decorations (door, wall)
DVD Players
Electric razors
Happy Hour Drinks
IPods, earphones, power cord
Jewelry
Lipstick, face powder, blush
Men's pajamas
Music CD's
Nice Shampoo & Conditioner
Sweaters/Cardigans
Wax Warmers
Scratch Off's
Nice Deodorant
DVD's – new releases
Hair picks – Large
Hats
ITunes money
Ladies pajamas
Lotion – men's & ladies
Mittens
Stamps
Stuffed Animals (new)
Trivia Books
White Boards
Slippers – must be grippy on bottom
Ladies & Men's cotton socks (diabetic, stretchy)
Twin size comforters – men's & ladies
Watches – men's & ladies (large face)
Sensory Room items: weighted blankets, diffusers/wax warmers, reminiscing items, doTerra oils, massage tools/mitts, farming/country decorations, 65" mounted TV

Due to COVID, St. John will NOT be collecting items this year. Please take your donations directly to Pine Crest. Thank You!

A VARIETY OF GIFTS

From: Simple Gifts: A series of devotions on stewardship

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Cor. 12:4-7).

"What good am I? That was the question that 94-year old Hulda Steubner asked me a few months into my very first pastorate. She had lived a hard life that had taken its toll on her. Her body was worn out from 75 years of farming. Her heart was broken because of her daughter's impending death at the hands of cancer. She couldn't drive. She couldn't get to church. The trip from her bed to the kitchen table was about all she could do for the morning.

In answer to her question I wove her arthritic hands into a folded position. I asked her if she would pray for me, the work of Trinity in Sheldon and the Church at large. I told her if she did that, she was doing work that many could not. Her shocked response came, "I do that every night…IN GERMAN!"

Every person, young or old, short or tall, veteran or rookie in the faith have gifts to be used for the kingdom. They are not the same. But those simple gifts are there! You don't even have to know what those gifts are. Just allowing the Holy Spirit to move you to financial generosity, generosity of your service or talents, is a manifesting of His work for the common good.

Ask the Lord to guide you today and in the coming days as you consider your commitment to the work of the Lord in this place. Dare to pray that the Spirit move you beyond your comfort zone and into the freedom of knowing that the Lord gives His simple gifts to you for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Lord, as You moved Hulda to serve within her limitations, remove any barrier that might exist in our lives that would prevent us from being faithful stewards of the Gospel. Lead us to pray, to give and to live in such a way that, through us, others see Jesus! Amen.

The Poinsettia Fund has been established to give the chancel a festive look for Christmas. If you wish to purchase a plant, place your donation in an envelope, mark it "Poinsettia Fund" and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. The cost of a plant is $16.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 1	Kevin Bentz
	Ella Humphrey
Nov. 2	Christine Brown
	Gabrielle Krueger
	Samantha Schmeltzer
Nov. 3	Brandtly Clark
	Ron Langer
	Jennifer McGarigle
	Austin Uttech
Nov. 4	Dennis Ashbrenner
	Cassandra Casper
	Sally Severt
	Aidan Tautges
Nov. 5	Robert Krueger
Nov. 6	Julie Belfiori
	Katherine Hartwig
	Melissa Jahnke
Nov. 7	Darren Bade
Nov. 8	Amanda Adams
	Candace Graap
	Bob Pike
	Harry Wallace
	Jake Wallace
	Jack Zamzow
Nov. 9	Dawn Henrich
Nov.10	Jim Jesperson, Jr.
Nov. 11	Missy Ellenbecker
	Leah Gipple
	Rod Grawien
Nov. 12	Lydia Klockow
	Craig Marnholtz
	Amber Mulrooney
	Pam Nickel
	Joanna Szeto
	Ralph Voigt, Sr.
Nov. 13	Hazel Dalsky
	Brindelyn Eternicka
	Marilyn Schenzel
	Josh Schmidt
	Samara Schoerner
	Arlene Voigt
Nov. 14	Maegge Moravec
	Jared Romang
	Lexia Schiller
	Jason Schubert
Nov. 15	Nancy Baacke
	Beth Ann Clapper
Nov. 16	Vaughn Albrecht
	Mitchell Hall
	Beth Krueger
	Kathy Kufahl
	Alicia Salisbury
	Al Vandre
Nov. 17	Jordyn Chartier
	Richie Griebel
	Seleen Kasper
Nov. 18	Adalee Baumann
	Malinda Burrow
	Nathan Koch
	Tracy Lambrecht
	Carri Leyk
	Evelyn Proulx
Nov 19	Jacob Lueck
Nov. 20	Connie Hintze
	Trenton Lokemoen
	Cory Plautz
Nov. 21	Harvey Lambrecht
	Katie Myszka
	Marcy Wiltgen
Nov. 22	Jeff Podeweltz
	Hannah Schmidtke
	Janet Schreiber
	Renee Toth
	Greg Zoellner
Nov. 23	Scott Sanderson
	Lowell Schultz
	Mike Sense
Nov. 24	Chad Meyer
	Christine Peck
Nov. 25	Elizabeth Breaman
	Roger Hanneman
	Don Hostvedt
	Judy Wery
	Jacob Yonke
Nov. 26	Thom Hahn
	Andy Jacobson
Nov. 27	Brandon Riebe
Nov. 28	Kay Koblitz
	Melissa Krueger
	Maxwell Schmidt
	Glen Toth
	Kim VanSlate
Nov. 29	Donna Buss
	Joel Donner
	Matt Kropp
Nov. 30	Lakeyn Adams
	Rita Hartwig
	Matt Heyel
	Sydney Kriewald
	Eric Losee
	Jackie McGarigle
	Gary Mootz
	Preston Schuelke
	Emily Wiesneski

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

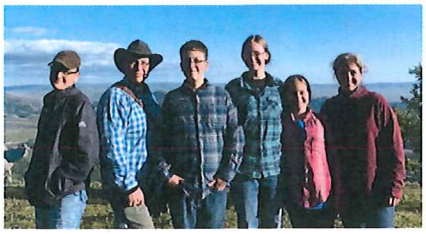
Nov. 1	Mike & Sandy Berndt	23
	Adam & Ericka Voigt	17
Nov. 5	Brett & Carmen Klug	15
	Reinie & Marlene Lenz	54
Nov. 6	Randy & Jeanne Schmidt	27
Nov. 9	John & Lisa Casper	29
	Barry & Treva Schmidt	46
Nov. 13	Tim & Amber Mulrooney	10
Nov. 15	Randy & Sharon Jaeger	45
Nov. 25	Norm & Trudy Kriewald	70
Nov. 26	Herb & Ramona Hornischer	49
Nov. 29	Jim & Flori Jesperson	29
	Rex & Shelley Richard	34

memorials & gifts

- Adopt a Bill: Test & Recharge Fire Extinguishers and Dishwasher Detergent was adopted by Diana Petruzates.
- Adopt a Bill: Mailing of October Journals was adopted by Sandy Berndt.
- Donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Fred Muschinske by Carol Henke
- Memorial to the General Fund for Penny Ernst, David Radtke, Donald Buntrock, Dicky Berndt and Dorothy Berndt by Ralph & Bernice Schulz.
- Donation for the Radio Broadcast in honor of their 55th anniversary and in memory of Crystal Josiger and Anthony Rothmeyer by Quinten & Linda Ament.

Because of the sensitive nature of our work, please do not post this newsletter on the internet or pass it on without our permission.

DAVID, RACHEL, JULIA, TIMOTHY, DANIEL & ESTHER BAKER



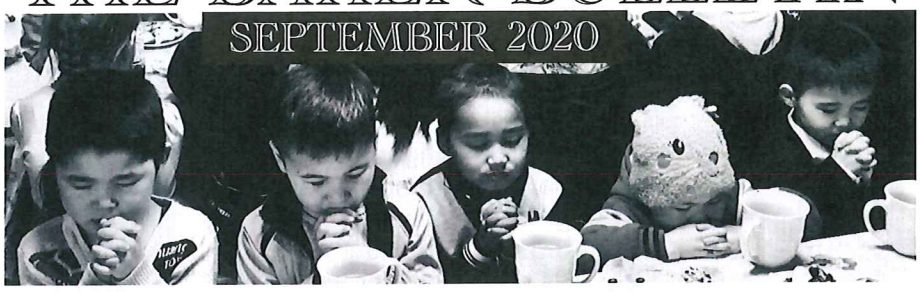
SERVING THE LORD WITH THE LCMS IN CENTRAL ASIA

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ★ Please pray for the people of Kazakhstan where Covid-19 is still spreading widely.
- ★ Pray for Azamat and Dina and family who are still stranded in Kazakhstan due to coronavirus travel restrictions, that they would soon be able to return to Mongolia.
- ★ Thank the Lord for the privilege to come before Him in prayer! Pray that new Kazakh Christians would learn to make use of this precious privilege to come before the Lord in prayer "as dearly loved children come to their dearly loved father!"
- ★ Praise the Lord for the wisdom that He gives by the Holy Spirit as we testify to who Jesus is and what He has done for us.
- ★ Pray for preservation and growth in the faith for the young Kazakh Christians in Mongolia, who often face pressures and persecution from the Islamic community.

THE BAKER BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2020



"Lord, Teach Us to Pray."

Entering the home where a fledgling church now meets in a remote village, we were told the head of the home and his wife were not there. His children (both in their mid 20s) invited us to sit down for tea along with another young family who was visiting them. As we joined them, the young man visiting introduced himself as a *mullah*—an Islamic teacher. Early on in the conversation he stated that Kazakhs are by definition Muslim. I prayed for wisdom, knowing that this very "conversation stopper" can serve as a bridge into a deeper conversation pointing to Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

As we plunged into a discussion of what "Muslim" really means, he agreed the word's root meaning is "submitter"—one who submits to the will of God Almighty. From that point, our conversation took many twists and turns. The young man noted that he helped teach other Kazakhs to pray the Salah or Namaz prayers—an important act of submission to God in the Muslim religion. I shared what Jesus taught his disciples about prayer and read Jesus' words from Matthew 6:5 ESV. "When you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward." I observed that even today many love to be praised by others or even to receive payment for their beautiful prayers. But Jesus said such people should not expect to receive anything from God for their prayers, for they have already received what they will get—the praise or payment of other people. Others are not so crass; they say their prayers hoping to gain merit or credit before God by their good deeds. The common understanding is that the longer their Arabic prayers, the more credit they receive. However, the young man confirmed that no one in the village could actually speak in Arabic. I noted that such prayers are exactly what Jesus instructed his followers *not* to do in Matthew 6:7 ESV. "When you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words." The kind of submission God wants is not merely outward, but one of the heart "in Spirit and in truth."

I pointed out that Jesus taught His disciples a completely different way of praying. Because of His sacrifice given on the cross, we sinful humans have been made right with God. Now He invites us to come before Him not as cowering slaves, but "as dearly loved children come before their dearly loved Father." So, we pray, "Our Father, who art in heaven…" Instead of being offended, the young mullah seemed quite thoughtful and attentive by this point in our conversation—asking many questions along the way that I cannot fit in this short article. In the end the conversation shifted to his little three-year-old son, who walks with a limp because of untreated hip-dysplasia. I related that our son Timothy had the same problem as a child. When I offered to pray for his son he whole-heartedly agreed. Perhaps this simple example of Christian prayer in their own native Kazakh language had more impact than the rest of our conversation thus far, for the mullah and his wife were clearly moved at the end of the prayer, and thanked me for asking God's blessing upon their child.

ST. JOHN DOLLAR IN STOCK ORDER FORM

NAME: DATE:

GIVE CREDIT TO:

CHECK# CASH GIFT CERTIFICATE SELLER'S INITIALS

RETAIL-SPECIALTY-MAIL ORDER

						TOTAL
ACE HARDWARE	4%			$25	$100	$
ANA BLAIR'S	5%			$25		$
BARNES & NOBLE	8%		$10	$25		$
BATH & BODY WORKS	13%		$10	$25		$
CENTRAL CARPET	5%	TELL THEM WHEN YOU PAY AT THE STORE				$
COSMO	10%	$5	$8			$
COURTSIDE FURNITURE	4%	TELL THEM WHEN YOU PAY AT THE STORE				$
DEDICATED MOTORS	10%	TELL THEM WHEN YOU PAY				$
DICK'S SPORTING GOODS	8%			$25	$100	$
FLEET FARM	5%	$10	$25	$50	$100	$
HARGRAVE APPLIANCE	3%	TELL THEM WHEN YOU PAY AT THE STORE				$
I Tunes	5%	$15		$25		$
JOANN FABRICS	6%			$25		$
JOHNSON Gifts & Collectibles	10%	$5				$
KOHL'S	5%	$10	$25	$50	$100	$
MENARD'S	4%		$25	$50	$100	$
MERRILL HOUSE OF MUSIC	4%	YOU PAY ST. JOHN, WE PAY THEM				$
MICHAELS	4%		$25			$
MILLER FURNITURE	4%	TELL THEM WHEN YOU PAY AT THE STORE				$
OLD NAVY/GAP/BANANA REPUBLIC	14%		$25			$
TARGET	2.5%		$25		$100	$
V.I.P.	5%	ANY AMOUNT YOU NEED				$
WALGREENS	6%		$25		$100	$
WALMART	2.5%		$25	$50	$100	$
CASCADING CARD FILE				25%	$3	$
GIFT CARD WRAPPERS				10%	$0.50	$
ST JOHN DOLLAR GIFT CERTIFICATE - ANY AMOUNT YOU NEED						$

(SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR SPECIAL ORDERS)

GROCERIES-GAS-RESTAURANTS

						TOTAL
COUNTY MARKET	5%		$25	$50	$100	$
PICK 'N SAVE , ROUNDY'S, KROGER	4%			$50		$
TRIG'S	3%			$50	$100	$
GOLDEN HARVEST	3%		$25			$
BP	1.5%			$50		$
CENEX	3%		$25	$100		$
HOLIDAY	5%		$25	$50		$
KRIST	10%		$25	$50	$100	$
KWIK TRIP	5%	$5	$25	$50	$100	$
MARATHON	3.0%		$25		$100	$
MOBIL OIL	1.0%			$50		$
PINE RIDGE	4.0%		$25	$50		$
SHELL	10%		$25	$50	$100	$
2510	7%		$10	$25		$
APPLEBEES	8%			$25		$
ARBY'S	8%		$10			$
CHIPS	15%	$5				$
CLUB 64	5%		$10	$20		$
CULVERS	5%		$10	$20		$
DAIRY QUEEN	15%		$10	$20		$
EAGLES	5%		$10	$20		$
ED & SHARON'S	5%		$10	$20		$
FIRST STREET COFFEE STATION	5%	$5	$10			$
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE	10%		$10	$20		$
GRAND STAND	5%	$5				$
HARDEE'S	10%	$5	$10			$
HUGO'S	8%	$5				$
KFC/TACO BELL	8%		$10			$
LOS MEZCALES	10%		$10	$20		$
MCDONALD'S	5%	$5	$10	$25		$
OLIVE GARDEN	8%			$25		$
PANARA BREAD	8%			$25		$
PIZZA HUT	8%		$10			$
RED ROBIN	8%			$25		$
SCHULT COUNTRY INN	7%		$10	$20		$
STUDIO 808	5%		$10			$
SUBWAY	6%		$10			$
TEXAS ROADHOUSE	8%			$25		$
						$

(OVER)

TOTAL FROM FRONT SIDE	$
TOTAL FROM BACK SIDE	$
AMOUNT DUE	$

10/23/2020

COFFEE FUNDRAISER FOR THE GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

Coffee will be a Special Guatemalan Blend. Orders will be taken until Monday, November 30. Please place your order in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. Cash or checks should be made out to St. John or to me, Sandy Berndt. Your coffee will be available for pick up the weekend of December 5& 6. Please indicate on form which day you will pick up your order. Due to COVID-19, all coffee must be preordered and prepaid. Your coffee will be placed in Ziploc bags with your name clearly shown for ease in pick up. Coffee makes great gifts for Christmas, stocking stuffers or a special blend for Christmas morning. $15 for a 12 ounce bag specially made for you!

Please indicate the number of bags you wish to order:

_____ whole bean **OR** _____ ground

Please indicate when you will pick up your order:

_____Saturday service (Dec. 5) _____Sunday service (Dec. 6)

_____Monday service (Dec. 7)

_____Tuesday afternoon communion (Dec. 8)

Name: _____ Phone # _____

CHECK OR CASH <u>MUST</u> BE INCLUDED WITH ORDER

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ANNUAL FRUIT SALE

It's time once again for the Annual Fruit Sale sponsored by the Youth Groups of St. John. All proceeds go towards funding our Servant Event trips and other youth activities.

We are again offering the opportunity to order gift boxes of sausage, cheese, trail mix and candy. These items are listed at the end of the fruit choices.

All orders must be turned in by Wednesday, November 18. The orders can then be picked up in the church basement on **Friday, December 4, from 4:00-6:00 P.M.**, or on **Saturday, December 5 from 9:00-10:00 A.M.**

Please drop all orders in the box located in the north narthex by the church and school offices. You may also order by calling the church office at 715-536-4722.

Place a check mark next to the items you wish to order. If you desire more than one of an item, please put the number you wish to order in the blank.

THE YOUTH GROUPS APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

TEXAS RUBY RED GRAPEFRUIT
_____ ½ box (20#) - $20.00
_____ Full box (40#) - $34.00

CALIFORNIA NAVEL ORANGES
_____ ½ box (20#) - $21.00
_____ Full box (40#) - $35.00

D'ANJOU PEARS
_____ 1 layer (9#) - $20.00
_____ 2 layer (18#) - $32.00

PREMIUM HONEYCRISP APPLES
_____ 1 layer (20) - $30.00
_____ 2 layer (40) - $45.00

EXTRA FANCY BRAEBURN APPLES
_____ 1 layer (9#) - $18.00
_____ 2 layer (18#) - $28.00

GRANNY SMITH APPLES
_____ 1 layer (9#) - $20.00
_____ 2 layer (18#) - $31.00

PREMIUM PINK LADY APPLES
_____ 1 layer (9#) - $23.00
_____ 2 layer (18#) - $38.00

MIXED – PINK LADY, BRAEBURN, GRANNY SMITH, PEARS
_____ 1 layer (20) - $21.00
_____ 2 layer (40) - $32.00

LARGE GIFT/MIXED BOXES
_____ 5 mcintosh / 4 honeycrisp / 10 oranges / 6 grapefruit - $29.00
_____ 4 gala / 3 braeburn / 8 oranges / 4 grapefruit / 6 pears - $29.00
_____ 5 gala / 5 braeburn / 10 oranges / 12 grapefruit –Mixed Box, not Gift Box $30.00
_____ 20 oranges / 12 grapefruit - $28.00 Mixed Box, not Gift Box
_____ 10 braeburn / 10 pears / 12 grapefruit - $32.00 Mixed not Gift
_____ 20 Gala apples / 20 oranges - $32.00 Mixed not Gift Box

SMALL GIFT/MIXED BOXES
_____ 3 Gala / 2 Braeburn / 5 oranges / 5 grapefruit - $20.00
_____ 2 Gala / 2 Braeburn / 4 oranges / 3 grapefruit / 4 pears - $21.00
_____ 2 Honeycrisp apples / 4 McIntosh / 4 pears / 5 oranges - $22.00

GIFT BOXES

_____ **MEAT LOVER'S DELIGHT - $29.00** (Approx. 3 lbs.)
(Beef Summer Sausage, Beef Sticks, Garlic Summer Sausage)

_____ **BUNDLE OF SAVORY BEEF STICKS - $35.00**
(3 lbs. of Beef Sticks)

_____ **TANTALIZING CHEESE SAMPLER - $29.00** (Approx. 4 lbs)
(Colby, Jalapeno Queso Blanco, Sharp Cheddar, Monterey Jack w/Pepper)

_____ **PARTY PACK - $28.00** (Approx 3.75 lbs.)
(Colby Cheese, Sharp Cheddar Cheese Spread, Beef Summer Sausage, All Beef Garlic Sausage)

_____ **GOURMET CHEESE SPREAD COMBO - $21.00**
(Garlic-Herb Cheese, Horseradish Cheese, Sharp Cheddar Cheese, Smokey Bacon Cheese)

_____ **WISCONSIN'S FINEST CRANBERRY TRAIL MIX - $26.00**
(Approx. 3 lbs.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

ALUMNI UPDATE 2020-2021

St. John School would like to update alumni addresses in an effort to reinstate *The Eagles Nest* alumni newsletter. We are asking for your help in finding and/or updating as many alumni addresses as possible. We are asking friends and family members to help us with this update.

Please fill in the name and address on the form below of any alumni you know. Then turn the form into the school or church office. If you are an alumnus, please include yourself. If you'd rather e-mail the addresses, please send them to khahn@stjohnmerrill.org. Please put "Alumni Address" in the subject line of your email.

We hope to reach as many alumni as possible. We greatly appreciate your help in making this happen! If you have any questions, please contact the school office: 715-536-7264

Alumni Name (Including maiden name)	Address	8th Grade Graduation Yr. (if known)	E-mail Address (optional)

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **ALL SAINTS** **9:00 AM** Divine Service I w/Holy Communion **10:00 AM** Bible Study	2 **ALL SAINTS** **7:30 AM** Bible Class @ First Street Coffee Station **6:00 PM** Divine Service I w/Holy Communion	3 **HOLY COMMUNION from 1:00-3:00 PM** **1:30 PM** Women's Bible Study **7:00 PM** Youth Board	4 **6:00 PM** WNA Confirmation Class **7:00 PM** Choir **8:00 PM** Senior High Youth	5 **7:00 AM** Bible Class @First Street Coffee Station **1:30 PM** Ladies Aid	6	7 **5:30 PM** Blended Worship w/Holy Communion
8 **9:00 AM** Prayer & Preaching w/Holy Communion **10:00 AM** Bible Study	9 **7:30 AM** Bible Class @ First Street Coffee Station **6:00 PM** Prayer & Preaching w/Holy Communion **7:00 PM** Elders **7:30 PM** Mothers' Club	10 **HOLY COMMUNION from 1:00-3:00 PM** **1:30 PM** Women's Bible Study **5:30 PM** Stewardship / Evangelism **6:00 PM** Day School Board **6:30 PM** Trustees	11 **6:00 PM** WNA Confirmation Class **7:00 PM** Choir **8:00 PM** Senior High Youth	12 **7:00 AM** Bible Class @First Street Coffee Station	13 **JOURNAL ARTICLES DUE** **10:00 AM** Bethesda Thrift Store	14 **5:30 PM** Blended Worship w/Holy Communion
15 **9:00 AM** Divine Service III w/Holy Communion **10:00 AM** Bible Study	16 **7:30 AM** Bible Class @ First Street Coffee Station **6:00 PM** Divine Service III w/Holy Communion **6:30 PM** Altar Guild	17 **HOLY COMMUNION from 1:00-3:00 PM** **1:30 PM** Women's Bible Study	18 **6:00 PM** WNA Confirmation Class **7:00 PM** Choir **8:00 PM** Senior High Youth	19 **7:00 AM** Bible Class @First Street Coffee Station	20	21 **5:30 PM** Blended Worship w/Holy Communion
22 **9:00 AM** Matins w/Holy Communion **10:00 AM** Bible Study	23 **7:30 AM** Bible Class @ First Street Coffee Station **6:00 PM** Prayer & Preaching w/Holy Communion	24 **HOLY COMMUNION from 1:00-3:00 PM** No Women's Bible Study today	25 **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** No School **6:00 PM** Thanksgiving Eve Service w/Holy Communion	26 **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** No School **10:00 AM** Thanksgiving Day Service w/Holy Communion	27 **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** No School	28 **10:00 AM** Bethesda Thrift Store **5:30 PM** Blended Worship w/Holy Communion
29 **9:00 AM** Divine Service IV w/Holy Communion **10:00 AM** Bible Study	30 **7:30 AM** Bible Class @ First Street Coffee Station **6:00 PM** Divine Service IV w/Holy Communion					