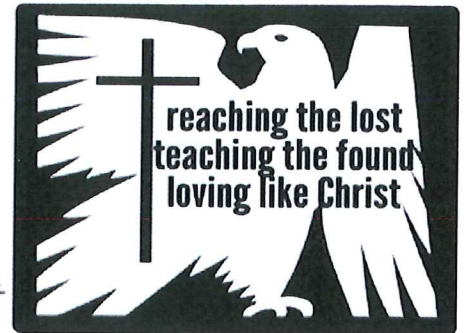


St. John Journal

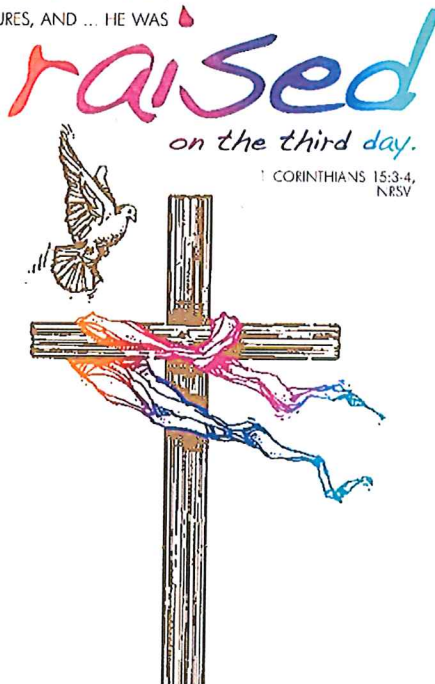


SEPTEMBER, 2020

THE HAPPENINGS HERE AT ST. JOHN

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared." +1 Corinthians 15:3-5 +

CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
SCRIPTURES, AND ... HE WAS



I know that this might sound crazy for some of you, but before everyone had her or his own cell phone, the family had one line into their house. And it was attached to the wall or on a table. And someone had to answer a ringing phone and discover that the caller wanted to speak with someone else in the family. Then you had to hand over the receiver and say, "It's for you."

This is what is so reassuring to us during these times of pandemic fear, anxiety and worry, this Christ – who died for all sins, this Christ – who rose again for the blessings of eternal life for all who believe, this Christ – who promises to return to take you to be with Him – IT IS FOR YOU!

That is witness Paul gives in our Corinthians reading, this is what we can cling to during these times. This is the truth in which we hold on to through the good times and the bad times.

UPDATE ON ST. JOHN

SERVICES - With the services not near the capacity, we are going to continue with our current schedule of services. These service times are Saturday at 5:30 PM; Sunday at 9:00 AM and Monday at 6:00 PM. The Saturday and the Sunday services will be live streamed on our Facebook page and the Sunday service will still be on the radio at 11:30 AM on Bluejay 730AM and 96.3FM. We are looking for sponsors for those services on the

radio, please prayerfully consider that.

One major change is that each service will have communion during this time of unrest. The communion will be done in a continuous line fashion, as to limit the contact points for each individual. The practice will be explained at the time of service.

COMMUNION – Because of the inclusion of communion in services, we will be cutting back our communion practice during the week. We will be serving communion **ONLY ON Tuesdays: 1-3 PM and 6-8 PM beginning September 8. Please make adjustments to your schedule accordingly.** Pastors are still willing to do communion individually at people's home, just call the church office to schedule those appointments.

DEVOTIONS – Our daily devotions on Facebook will also be changed starting in September. A daily devotion will be provided for you Monday through Friday only.

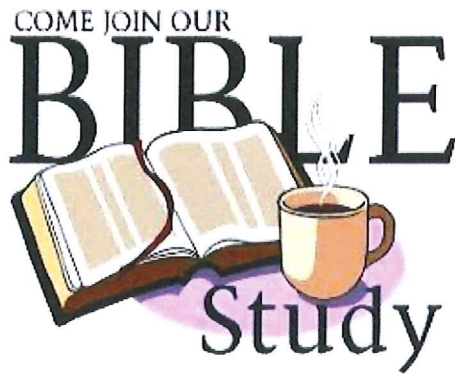
PROGRAMS – We are starting up certain programs, and again we are doing them in stages.

Senior Youth returns September 9th at its' usual time of 8:00 PM on Wednesday evenings.

Ladies' Aid will meet on Thursday, September 3rd. This usually is the potluck meal, but not this year. Come for the fellowship and dessert. Wearing of masks is encouraged.

Wednesday Night Alive returns on September 9th. This year, we are keeping it to 6th to 8th grade. This will lessen the people here in the church and school and be able to keep things social distant.

We advise that you wear a mask during these programs and maintain social distancing guidelines accordingly.



Bible Studies – Pastor's Bible Studies on Sunday will continue in the book of Genesis down in the fellowship hall. During that time, we will be streaming live on our youtube channel. (Yes, we have a youtube channel. Go to youtube.com, search for St. John Lutheran, Merrill, and you will find us and past Bible studies we have streamed). This has already begun, please join us after church service.

Thom Hahn will also begin his **Sunday Bible Study** as well. There will be more information to come.

Monday Morning Bible studies and **Thursday Morning Bible studies** at First Street Coffee Station will resume and you can participate on zoom for those. Please call the church office to contact the pastors on joining in. Those morning Bible

Studies begin at 7 AM

Women's Afternoon Bible study on Tuesday will return as well on September 8th. Please contact Deaconess Fran at the church office to register for the course.

Thursday Afternoon Bible study with Pastor Bless will return on September 10. This study begins at 12:30 PM.

Again we advise that during these Bible Studies you wear your mask and maintain social distancing guidelines accordingly. Please be advised to contact your Bible Study leader if you are interested in zooming in on the study.

New Members Classes are being conducted on individual basis and what that family or individual feels comfortable doing. Please call the pastors or email the pastors to arrange these meetings.

MARK IT DOWN! SEPTEMBER 13th OUTDOOR SERVICE! Because of the restrictions that come with this pandemic, the church picnic which is usually the first Sunday after Labor Day has been cancelled. But the elders agreed that we should still have an outdoor service!

This service will take place in our parking lot. Please bring your lawn chairs for we will not supply chairs for this service. We ask that you come and sit socially distant from each other during service.

During the service, we will be serving communion as well. The pastors will walk around providing communion with an elder behind them picking up the individual cups.

We will also have Bible Study right afterwards, so please plan accordingly.



Lastly, my dear friends, as all this is fluid and ever changing, we do our best to follow the rules presented to us by God's representatives in the government. For all the things that have been given to us is for the good of God, and therefore for the good of you, as part of His family.

Live in the grace of the Lord and may the love, peace and grace of Jesus Christ continue to strengthen you always.

+ Pastor Dave Szeto +

*"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."
Matthew 20:28*



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."
Proverbs 22:6*

St. John Lutheran School

"Sent to Serve"

"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (**Matthew 20:28**)

We serve because Jesus served. The Son of Man came to serve as teacher and miracle worker. Jesus came to serve the diseased and distraught. Jesus served by feeding thousands and washing the feet of His disciples. Jesus came to serve little children.

Jesus came to seek, save, and serve sinners. Jesus' ultimate act of service is seen in the cross. The "Sent to Serve" theme and verse from Matthew directs children, faculty, staff, families, and friends who are blessed to worship together at the cross of Jesus.

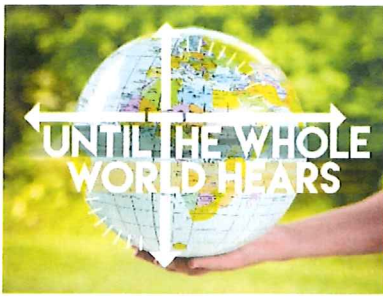
In 2019, LCMS Youth Ministry published "7 Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry." One of the practices noted is "Serve and Lead." The resource noted, "Young people are watching the church and looking for the love of Christ to overflow to their neighbors" (p. 28). Service doesn't begin with teenagers after their confirmation. Blessed in the grace of the waters of Baptism, we are the Spirit's instruments to serve from childhood. Children in Lutheran schools are "Sent to Serve."

Rejoicing in the Good News that Jesus was sent to serve, Lutheran school students, teachers and others blessed by the school ministry are then "Sent to Serve" in His name!



The beginning of this school year will look differently and present more challenges than other years. Our Open House will be virtual. Masks will be worn. Although we love having parents, grandparents, and friends in our building for lunch or for volunteering, visitors won't be allowed past the office. We're having three lunch shifts instead of two to keep our students socially distanced. There will be one-way traffic in our hallways. There will be limits on how many students may be in the bathroom at one time. Hand washing and desk sanitizing times have been built into classroom schedules. These are some of the strategies our school will have in place with the goal of keeping our students as safe as possible. **ONE THING WILL NOT CHANGE: *The love of God will be shared with our students each and every day!***





GUATEMALA UPDATE: GEORGE: George Leger is the founder of Only A Child. He was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts and was an executive chef at a private country club. George saw a newspaper article about Giovanna, a homeless boy who was murdered by the Guatemala government in 1993. Giovanna had left an abusive home to live on the streets. The police tortured him with their customary brutality, beat him and left his body in a field. George was so moved by this event, he left his very comfortable life to pursue a far less certain path among the crime and poverty of Guatemala City.

George found large numbers of youth who survived by begging and theft and slept on the streets. Many were drug addicts. Many had escaped violent homes finding more violence on the streets from the police. George intended to work with an established organization already in Guatemala, but they did not meet his goals in helping the kids. He founded Only a Child in 1994 as a simple outreach program. He provided for their most basic needs of food, clothing, medical and love. The children began to trust him because he spent time with them daily, talking, listening and giving them the attention they so needed from a loving adult.

He then went on to establish the shelter and carpentry shop helping the youngsters to attend school and learn life skills. All of this was achieved through much trial and despair. But when George tells us his story, and we hear it each time we go to Guatemala, we see his trust and faith in God. He tells us of his prayers, praying constantly, his trust that God will provide in the darkest of times. Many times they were being evicted from the home they were using, or had run out of money to purchase their food for the month. Turning to prayer and trusting God, the answers were always there.

He truly is a loving Christian man who has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of kids. More than 60 youth have lived in the shelter, have learned life skills in the carpentry shop and have been educated in accredited independent schools, including the university.

All of this is done with God's word and love. There are morning and evening devotions, prayers, church and ministry to other under privileged youth. He teaches them to live their lives centered around God. We visit the carpentry shop on each trip giving us the opportunity to learn about their lives. This year each youth told their story, where they came from, the family they left behind, how they found George and how this ministry has changed their lives. They told us their specific skill in making the boxes and what their life plans are. It was a very humbling experience for us, who have so much freedom and so many earthly goods.



The boxes are all designed, carved, sanded and stained by the boys. All by hand. They take great pride in their work. They ask us for new ideas and show us ideas they have been working on. Many of you have purchased some of the boxes and crosses. All money from the sale goes back to the ministry. Since COVID-19, their lives have changed drastically. George's recent newsletter highlighted the changes. Guatemala is largely dependent on the government for many things. And when they closed the border and instituted restrictions, people are suffering

Most business and commercial centers are closed except for supermarkets, pharmacies and banks. But they have limited hours and many restrictions. There is no public transportation and those with cars can only drive them 1 or 2 days a week depending on their license plate numbers. A mandatory curfew from 4pm to 4am each day you must remain INSIDE your home. All schools, churches, social and cultural events have been cancelled. The boys have not seen their families since Christmas due to curfew, transportation issues and restrictions on travel between counties being prohibited. Their counties are like our cities, suburbs, townships etc. You cannot travel outside of the one you live in unless you have government permission.

George has been quarantined with the youth at the shelter home and says he has never felt so isolated. The border to the United States has been closed off and he is solely responsible for watching over 9 young lives. His biggest concern has been that the Department of Health would collapse under a level of demand for care and that is currently happening. Only those with life threatening symptoms are cared for. The boys are keeping current with their studies, eating their meals together, learning to help each other more and spending more time in Bible study, prayer and reflection.

The government has now imposed a fasting and prayer day each Saturday. Each Saturday from 8 am to 12 pm, there is no reading, except the Bible, no technology, no food. George says the boys and him have been personally moved by this experience and they continue the practice each Saturday.

In closing he says "Once again, I turn to my faith, this time to help me face a strange new world that I often struggle to recognize. Once again, my faith does not fail me. I remain calm and at peace, trusting that a Higher Power watches over us all, always. The uncertainty and anxiety we face are known by one and all. No one is spared. Let this be our common ground. One world under God, indivisible....".

PS. They were not able to hold their spring fundraiser in the USA and need our support to continue the mission. They face a long road ahead and request support of their work. You can donate directly on their website or give to church office and we will make sure the funds get to them.

Until next month,
Praise and thanks to God, Sandy Berndt



IN OUR PRAYERS THIS MONTH:

Marge Lemke, Garry Schmidt, Tom Karau, Beverly Ashby, Ethel Natzke, Barb Hintze, Phil and Nancy Cohrs, Kenneth Behrend, Emily Wiesneski, Morgan Benedict, Sarah and Pete Koskey.

For Those Who Mourn: Including the families of Nathalie Tank, Dorothy Berndt (mother of Mike Berndt), and Kris Cator (sister of Ron Kautz)

For those in Bell Tower from our Congregation: Wanda Meyer, Betty Hulke, Judy Chartier

Back to School: Pray for

Students: for their protection, pray against any anxiety or fear, pray for the ability to focus.

Teachers: for their safety and health; pray for provisions for all of their classroom needs, pray against anxiety and fear.

Parents: for wisdom to make decisions for their child's education, pray for patience, understanding and peace.

School Administrators: for wisdom to make good decisions, pray for provisions to provide resources for teachers and families, pray for grace.

School Support Staff: for assistants, custodians, cooks, librarians, and all others who support schools, pray for protection and health, pray for peace and grace.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS UPDATE

The **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KITS** campaign has ended for the season. With your donation of Personal Care items we were able to put together 136 kits. Thank you to those who donated items and monetary donations. We were just 14 kits short of our goal. A great effort considering that church was closed for Covid prevention. Thank you to the following for helping with this project – Noelle Stine, Kay Klug, Kathy Sheridan Laurel Steinagel, Kathy Seubert, Gary Porath, Julie Gehrmann and Nancy Porath. A big thank you to Thrivent for Action Team donations to purchase needed items to complete the kits.

We have now started working on the **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS**. Items needed this year for the school kits include:

- Spiral notebooks of ruled paper approximately 8-1/2 x 11" (70 count). We need four per kit
- Pencil sharpeners
- Scissors (blunt tipped)
- #2 pencils with erasers
- Rulers w/centimeters and inches marked
- Crayons in a box of 16 or 24 count
- Ball point pens (no gel ink)
- Erasers (approximately 2-1/2")

All items should be new and in good condition. Please put the items in the boxes located in the north or east narthex marked "LWR School Kits." We do have some needed items left over from last year. **Especially needed this year are** notebooks, blunt tipped scissors, rulers and crayons. We also take monetary donations to help purchase needed items and fabric for making the school bags. Please put your donation in an envelope marked "LWR School Kits" and drop it off at the church office or put it in the offering plate. Thank you for your support of these projects.

THE GIFT OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP:



"Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased'."

God was pleased. With whom was He pleased? His son Jesus of course! But have you ever wondered why? What had Jesus done up to this point to cause such pleasure for His Father? Well, He didn't get murdered by Herod. He was in the temple like a good Jewish boy. He hadn't done anything exceptional up to this point. No healings. No teaching. No resurrections. Even in Luke 3, all Jesus does is go down into the water and is baptized by His cousin John. Nothing spectacular to inspire pleasure in the Father has been seen yet.

But that is what gives us the greatest stewardship lesson. Stewardship isn't about the spectacular. You don't have to give millions of dollars to be a Father-pleasing steward. You don't have to go to Africa for mission work to get the same kind of "attaboy" from God. Stewardship that is faithful and God-pleasing is found in everyday life. It is the husband loving his wife because she is a

gift from God. It is a mom feeding her baby in the middle of the night because she has been given this new life to steward. It is a child doing their level best because their talents are gifts from God.

This happens every day. You have been doing it. Simple gifts have been entrusted to you. Your faithful presence in worship, your generosity for the Gospel, the investment in your family with the message of the Gospel and so many other mundane efforts are stewardship. It is your faithfulness to the callings you have been given.

The Father was well pleased with Jesus because of what He had done up to that point. He was also well pleased with what He was going to do. The same is true of you, faithful steward. He is pleased with what you have done and what He knows you will do. He knows you will heed His word and answer His call. He has given you all the grace you need to be His faithful steward. With you He is well pleased.

Prayer: Loving Father, You were well pleased with the faithful work of Your Son both before and after His Baptism in the Jordan. Grant us the grace to be faithful in the stewardship of our daily lives. When we fall short, lead us back to Jesus. We know that it is because of Him that You are pleased with us. Lead us to be faithful stewards of His Gospel every day! Amen.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

DATE	SCRIPTURE READINGS	DATE	SCRIPTURE READINGS
September 1	1 Kings 18:1-19; Ephesians 1:1-23	September 16	2 Chronicles 35:1-7, 16-25; Zephaniah 1:1-3:20; Colossians 3:1-25
September 2	1 Kings 18:20-40; Ephesians 2:1-22	September 17	2 Chronicles 36:1-23; Philemon 1-25; Colossians 4:1-18
September 3	1 Kings 19:1-21; 20:1-22:53; Ephesians 3:1-21	September 18	Nehemiah 1:1-2:10; Haggai 1:1-2:23; 1 Timothy 1:1-20
September 4	2 Kings 2:1-18; Ephesians 4:1-24	September 19	Nehemiah 2:11-20; 4:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:1-15
September 5	2 Kings 2:19-25; 4:1-7; Ephesians 4:25-5:14	September 20	Nehemiah 4:7-23; 1 Timothy 3:1-16
September 6	2 Kings 4:8-22, 32-37; Ephesians 5:15-33	September 21	Nehemiah 5:1-16; 6:1-9, 15-16; 1 Timothy 4:1-16
September 7	2 Kings 4:38-5:8; Ephesians 6:1-24	September 22	Nehemiah 7:1-4; 8:1-18; Ezra 1:1-10:19; 1 Timothy 5:1-16
September 8	2 Kings 5:9-27; Philippians 1:1-20	September 23	Nehemiah 9:1-21; 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2
September 9	2 Kings 6:1-8:29; Philippians 1:21-2:11	September 24	Nehemiah 9:22-13:31; 1 Timothy 6:3-21
September 10	2 Kings 9:1-13; 10:18-29; 13:1-18:8; Philippians 2:12-30	September 25	Malachi 1:1-14; Matthew 3:1-17
September 11	2 Chronicles 29:1-24; Philippians 3:1-21	September 26	Malachi 2:1-3:5; Matthew 4:1-11
September 12	2 Chronicles 31:1-21; Philippians 4:1-23	September 27	Malachi 3:6-4:6; Matthew 4:12-25
September 13	2 Chronicles 32:1-22; Hosea 1:1-14:9; Colossians 1:1-23	September 28	Deuteronomy 1:1-18; Matthew 5:1-20
September 14	2 Chronicles 33:1-25; Jonah 1:1-4:11; Colossians 1:24-2:7	September 29	Deuteronomy 1:19-36; Matthew 5:21-48
September 15	2 Chronicles 34:1-4, 8-11, 14-33; Nahum 1:1-3:19; Colossians 2:8-23	September 30	Deuteronomy 1:37-2:15; Matthew 6:1-15



- Donation to the Debt fund by Lois Geiss for many, many blessings.
- Adopt a Bill for Computer Back up and Document Destruction by Mike Berndt.
- Memorial for Nathalie Tank
- Adopt a Bill for Communion wafers
- Adopt a Bill for Reproduction Copies of Psalm 51 by Judy Wery.
- Donation for Radio Broadcasts from Gerald & Sally Leistikow in thanksgiving for their entire family and the birth of a Great Grandson.
- Donation for Radio Broadcasts in memory of Robert Smith by Patricia Smith.
- Memorial for Bob Hoff from Harry & Helen Wallace
- Adopt a Bill for Mailing the August Journal by Sandy Berndt
- Adopt a Bill for Gloves for the Summer Lunch Program by Rhonda Karau



To share information on our financial situation and the importance of keeping our commitments, a summary of our income for the last week of July and the first 4 weeks of August are listed below. Our weekly needs are \$15,443.00.

July 26: \$9,807.08	August 2: \$10,832.58	August 9: \$10,780.08
August 16: \$11,022.08	August 23: \$5,932.08	

The balance of the loan at mBank as of August 20th is \$294,000.



ST. JOHN DAY CARE

On August 10 we welcomed 20 children to the GCC Daycare! They are cared for by Sarah Blum, Nyleen Kleinschmidt, Tammy Duwe, Donna Frick and Mackenzie Kufahl. We could not have opened without all of your support. Many thanks to those who donated items, time, and prayers as we navigated opening. Please continue to hold us in prayer as we care for these children!

CHECK IT OUT! Please help the Ladies Aid support our church with their ongoing project of selling quality American made products including knives, utensils, gift sets, party dips, cheese balls, soup and sauce mixes, cookbooks, and baking pans. These items make good shower, wedding, anniversary, birthday, graduation, and hostess gifts. An order will be placed soon. Contact Marlene at 715-536-4848.

ST. JOHN DOLLAR IN STOCK ORDER FORM

NAME:

DATE:

GIVE CREDIT TO:

CHECK#

CASH

GIFT CERTIFICATE

SELLER'S INITIALS

RETAIL-SPECIALTY-MAIL ORDER

TOTAL GROCERIES-GAS-RESTAURANTS

TOTAL

ACE HARDWARE	4%			\$25	\$100	\$	COUNTY MARKET	5%		\$25	\$50	\$100	\$
ANA BLAIR'S	5%			\$25		\$	PICK 'N SAVE , ROUNDY'S,						
BARNES & NOBLE	8%		\$10	\$25		\$	KROGER	4%			\$50		\$
BATH & BODY WORKS	13%		\$10	\$25		\$	TRIG'S	3%			\$50	\$100	\$
CENTRAL CARPET	5%	TELL THEM WHEN YOU PAY AT THE STORE				\$	GOLDEN HARVEST	3%		\$25			\$
COSMO	10%	\$5	\$8			\$							
COURTSIDE FURNITURE	4%	TELL THEM WHEN YOU PAY AT THE STORE				\$	BP	1.5%			\$50		\$
DEDICATED MOTORS	10%	TELL THEM WHEN YOU PAY				\$	CENEX	3%		\$25	\$100		\$
DICK'S SPORTING GOODS	8%			\$25	\$100	\$	HOLIDAY	5%		\$25	\$50		\$
FLEET FARM	5%	\$10	\$25	\$50	\$100	\$	KRIST	10%		\$25	\$50	\$100	\$
HARGRAVE APPLIANCE	3%	TELL THEM WHEN YOU PAY AT THE STORE				\$	KWIK TRIP	5%	\$5	\$25	\$50	\$100	\$
I Tunes	5%	\$15		\$25		\$	MARATHON	3.0%		\$25		\$100	\$
JOANN FABRICS	6%			\$25		\$	MOBIL OIL	1.0%			\$50		\$
JOHNSON Gifts & Collectibles	10%	\$5				\$	PINE RIDGE	4.0%		\$25	\$50		\$
KOHL'S	5%	\$10	\$25	\$50	\$100	\$	SHELL	10%		\$25	\$50	\$100	\$
MENARD'S	4%		\$25	\$50	\$100	\$							
MERRILL HOUSE OF MUSIC	4%	YOU PAY ST. JOHN, WE PAY THEM				\$	2510	7%		\$10	\$25		\$
MICHAELS	4%		\$25			\$	APPLEBEES	8%			\$25		\$
MILLER FURNITURE	4%	TELL THEM WHEN YOU PAY AT THE STORE				\$	ARBY'S	8%		\$10			\$
OLD NAVY/GAP/BANANA REPUBLIC	14%		\$25			\$	CHIPS	15%	\$5				\$
TARGET	2.5%		\$25		\$100	\$	CLUB 64	5%		\$10	\$20		\$
V.I.P.	5%	ANY AMOUNT YOU NEED				\$	CULVERS	5%		\$10	\$20		\$
WALGREENS	6%		\$25		\$100	\$	DAIRY QUEEN	15%		\$10	\$20		\$
WALMART	2.5%		\$25	\$50	\$100	\$	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			\$
CASCADING CARD FILE	25%		\$3			\$	RED ROBIN	8%			\$25		\$
GIFT CARD WRAPPERS	10%		\$0.50			\$	SCHULT COUNTRY INN	7%		\$10	\$20		\$
ST JOHN DOLLAR GIFT CERTIFICATE - ANY AMOUNT YOU NEED						\$	STUDIO 808	5%		\$10			\$
							SUBWAY	6%		\$10			\$
							TEXAS ROADHOUSE	8%			\$25		\$
													\$

(SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR SPECIAL ORDERS)

(OVER)

TOTAL FROM FRONT SIDE \$

TOTAL FROM BACK SIDE \$

AMOUNT DUE \$



Sept. 1 Laurie Runge
 Sept. 2 Brianna Marsceau
 Sept. 3 Alissa Uttech
 Sept. 4 Carol Caylor
 Terri Pike
 Barb Plautz
 Dave Schenzel
 Sept. 5 Helen Brandt
 Milton Buntrock
 Reinie Lenz
 Dan Simon
 Mike Wiesneski
 Sept. 6 Kathy Klemp
 Terry Parks
 Diane Peterson
 Rowan Plautz
 Gary Porath
 Robert Schmidtke
 Cheryl Zimmerman
 Sept. 7 Mike Koehler
 Kelli Peck
 Colleen Skoviera
 Sept. 8 Drew Hoff
 Donna Holl
 Donna Peroutka
 Sept. 9 Joan Bessey
 Dave Black
 Dennis Brandner
 Sally Hostvedt
 Rogene Janik
 Sept. 10 Bob Roggenbuck
 Addison Schmeltzer
 Sept. 11 Stephanie Bosley
 Jessica Heidemann
 Anthony Hein
 Dennis Hintze
 Molly Krueger
 Jake Schlueter
 Sept. 12 Elaine Barry
 Richard Cichy
 Layla Jacobson
 Noah Lewandowski
 Zach Runge
 Mark Weiss
 Carissa Wendt
 Sept. 13 Lois Geiss
 Treg Knospe
 Stephen Koch
 Nicole LaMonica
 Collin Peeters
 Sept. 14 Madelyn Becker
 Deb Berndt
 Jeff Hintze

Sept. 15 Breannon Herdt
 Camille Meyer
 Patricia Smith
 Paul Weaver
 Krista Zelinski
 Sept. 16 Stephanie Aldrich
 Kailyn Alexander
 Laurie Kriewald
 Teresa Lewis
 Becky Myszka
 Sept. 17 Jeff Jameson
 Amanda Kleinschmidt
 Trudy Kriewald
 Barb Schmidt
 Sept. 18 Roy Lange
 Carson Wallace
 Judy Wolfe
 Sept. 19 Bob Seliger
 Sept. 20 Angie Frederick
 ShaylinRae Horn
 Kay Klug
 Ashley Kufahl
 Sept. 22 Nancy Cohrs
 Sophia Curran
 Sept. 23 Rachel Bayer
 Brad Frederick
 Sept. 24 Doug Brandt
 Destiny Lemke
 Shari Samuelson
 Julie Wiederhoeft
 Sept. 25 Sue Hoff
 Taylor Keding
 William Kidder
 Gary Schmidt
 Sept. 26 Caleb Bigelow
 Emilie English
 Maya Lemke
 Joe Ollhoff
 Sept. 27 Lee Buehler
 Toni Frick
 Hannah Losee
 Sept. 28 Quinten Ament
 Grace Heldt
 Vilas Krenz
 Tanner Larkee
 Sept. 29 Quinn Brandt
 Corbin Cannon
 Darwin Haufe
 Chris Marlowe
 Desmond Schmidt
 Nancy Wolff
 Sept. 30 Graycen Graap



Sept. 1 Roger & Darlene Bade
 James & Camille Meyer
 Gene & Phyllis Voigt
 Sept. 2 Mitchell & Nicole Runge
 Jake & Meghan Wallace
 Sept. 4 Kevin & Beth Krueger
 Sept. 5 Carl & Merle Mewing
 Sept. 6 Scott & Linda Doerr
 Bill & Dawn Folta
 Al & Pam Fox
 Bill & Janice Helmuth
 Shannon & Brenda Herdt
 Don & Sally Hostvedt
 Sept. 7 Jeff & Connie Hintze
 Sept. 8 William & Allaire Kidder
 Tom & Kay Schenzel
 Sept. 11 Tom & Meghan Barker
 Ralph & Arlene Voigt
 Sept. 12 Tom & Cheryl Barkley
 Mike & Jessica Koehler
 Dan & Tracey Lokemoen
 Sept. 13 Rich & Sharon Krause
 Sept. 14 LeRoy & Connie Fischer
 Ron & Debby Langer
 Sept. 15 Roy & Joan Lange
 Nathan & Leah Strand
 Mike & Karen Theilig
 Sept. 16 Mike & Jody Woller
 Sept. 17 Matt & Becky Kropp
 Mark & Chris Moravec
 Sept. 18 Andy & Kristin Jacobson
 Sept. 19 John & Nicole LaMonica
 Sept. 20 Darren & Missy Lemke
 Amisi & Heidi Musombwa
 Sept. 21 Dave & Deb Doering
 Rod & Laurie Runge
 Russ & Sheryl Uttech
 Luke & Annie Wood
 Sept. 22 Jerry & Diana Petruzates
 Sept. 23 Lloyd & Diane Jacobson
 Sept. 24 Melissa & Jacob Gronke
 Ken & Marcy Wiltgen
 Sept. 25 Jason & Ashley Raasch
 Sept. 26 Jay & Kristin VanDerGeest
 Sept. 27 Dave & Sandy Laehn
 Kurt & Lori Wendt
 Sept. 29 Jordan & Emily Baumann
 Lowell & Judy Schultz



Gbarnga Mission News

Sharing God's love through education in Liberia

Summer 2020

SHINING BRIGHTER TOGETHER

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

I recall a night in Liberia, lying safely under my mosquito bed net, marveling at the magnitude of the surrounding darkness. The kind of pitch-black environment where no boundary existed between my outstretched hand and the void surrounding me. It was the perfect conditions for my light-sensitive sleep style. Back home in Massachusetts, I intentionally draw the shades tight to prevent light from waking me.

Light is a powerful force. At times, we wield it to illuminate a path or find lost objects. At others, we summon its piercing brightness to deter criminals or expose injustices. Occasionally – or perhaps more often than we care to admit – we prefer forms of darkness that hide our faults and failures, that keep

our sins in shady obscurity. Jesus knew the power of light and often referred to it in scripture. In Matthew 5:16 he says, "...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Covid-19 fears, economic turmoil, and international instability have cast a dense shadow of uncertainty

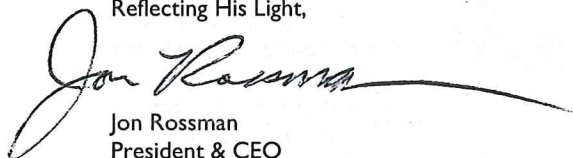
on the world as we knew it. While a new normal begins to take shape, we struggle to make plans with so many unknowns. Outfitted with the flashlight of faith leading the way, Gbarnga Mission is committed to reflecting God's light in Liberia. Your partnership makes it possible for us to "shine before others" in Deanville and the surrounding communities – not to show how great and caring we are, but so they'll see through us how much God loves them and they'll feel inspired to "glorify your Father in heaven." At the Gbarnga Lutheran Training Center (GLTC), Christian teachers share their faith and educate our students about Jesus – the "light of the world". In very tangible terms, GLTC is a literal light in the community. Because of your generous gifts, solar power illuminates our classrooms and empowers parents through our adult literacy classes.

In this edition, you'll find a special letter from our school principal, Nathaniel Sumo, in which he highlights some of the ways your light has made a difference in this community. As the new academic year approaches, we're excited to continue sharing God's love through education in Liberia and look forward to the new ways he'll use us to serve – radiating Jesus'

light even more in this community. We're so thankful for your prayers and support. I'm especially grateful for our Child Sponsors and encourage you to share your experience with friends, family and colleagues as we seek to add new sponsors to support GLTC's growing enrollment.

Thank you for shining your light with us – because **together we're brighter!**

Reflecting His Light,


Jon Rossman
President & CEO

BUILDING FUND: BEYOND HALF WAY!

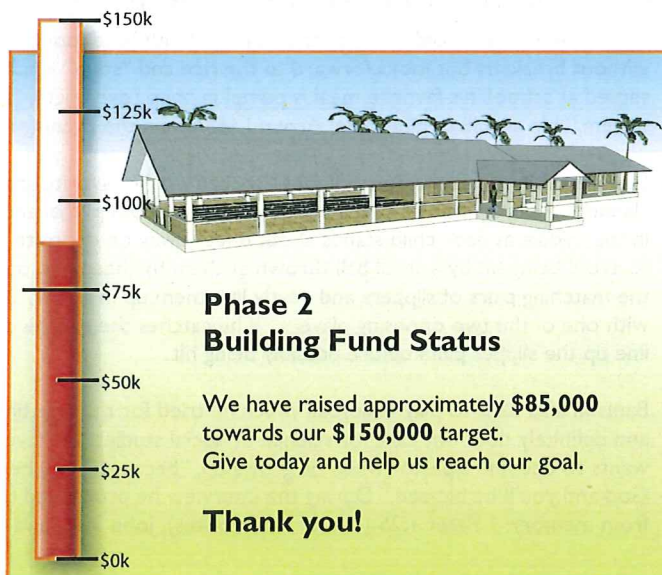
We have surpassed the HALF WAY milestone in our Phase 2 building fund campaign. Estimated cost for constructing and furnishing four more classrooms and a cafeteria/multipurpose room is **\$150,000**.

Your generous gifts and pledges now **exceed \$85,000**. Thank you!

We will soon fill the physical capacity of our existing school building which currently accommodates ABC, K1, K2, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grade classes. To continue our goal of adding a grade each year, we need your help to begin Phase 2 building efforts which will allow us to expand enrollment up to 8th grade.

With God's blessing and the generosity of your financial support, our goal is to begin excavation and foundation work by year-end 2020. Help us meet the remaining **\$65,000** challenge.

Please give today. Thank you for your support! ❖



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



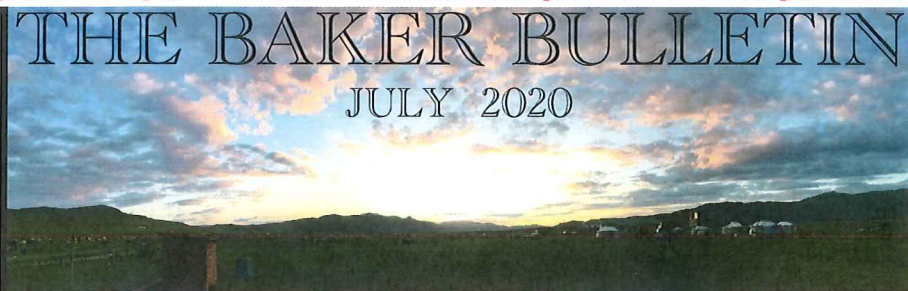
**SERVING THE LORD
WITH THE LCMS IN CENTRAL ASIA**

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ★ Pray for Dina and Azamat, as they have now lost 8 relatives to the coronavirus, and for those affected by the epidemic throughout Kazakhstan and Central Asia.
- ★ Praise the Lord that the coronavirus has not spread in Mongolia and that the churches can once again begin meeting!
- ★ Praise the Lord that none of us were hurt when our old Land Cruiser broke down. Pray that our new car would be available quickly, and that we would have a safe and productive visit to the churches in Western Mongolia.
- ★ Pray for the leadership in the Kazakh churches, especially in Western Mongolia.

THE BAKER BULLETIN

JULY 2020



The Church—Together Again!

Since January the Mongolian government has been very strict in regard to the coronavirus with mandatory mask rules and the closing of theaters, gyms, churches, etc., even limiting work hours of businesses. Borders with all foreign countries are closed, other than evacuation flights. We can't even receive or send mail from America! However, since there have been only 288 cases in the country (all imported), and since there have been no reported deaths or even in-country transmissions of Covid-19, the government has recently been relaxing the regulations a bit, even allowing churches to meet! It was with great joy that we met with our Kazakh brothers and sisters in Christ this past weekend for a church picnic. One of the members invited the church to meet at his family's home outside the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, and over fifty people came! Only around half of our faithful church family in the area was free to join us, but those who came brought friends and relatives with whom they had shared the Gospel who were eager to learn more about a Savior from sin. One lady's husband came for the first time, joining his wife and three young boys in church. I watched as he held up his phone to record the songs we sang together. In talking to his wife afterwards, she said with joy, "He said he is going to come every week! He especially loved the worship time!" And there was

opportunity for much conversation with the other new folks as we played games and shared a meal together after the service. In good Kazakh fashion, the picnic was 9 hours long, and we sat down to not one, but THREE laden tables, including all the special cultural treats like the sheep's head, innards (kidney, liver, etc.), and fermented mare's milk. It was such an encouragement for us to be together as the Body of Christ once again, so this month we will let the pictures tell the rest of the story...





september



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 HOLY COMMUNION from 1:00-3:00 PM and 6:00-8:00 PM	2 HOLY COMMUNION from 1:00-3:00 PM 6:00 PM 6th & 7th Grade Confirmation Orientation for Parent and Child 7:00 PM 8th Grade Confirmation Orientation for Parent and Student	3 HOLY COMMUNION from 1:00-3:00 PM and 6:00-8:00 PM 7:00 AM Bible Class @First Street Coffee Station 1:30 PM Ladies Aid	4	5 5:30 PM Blended Worship w/Holy Communion
6 9:00 AM Divine Service I w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Bible Study (In person and on the St. John Church and School youtube channel)	7 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 PM Divine Service I w/Holy Communion	8 HOLY COMMUNION from 1:00-3:00 PM and 6:00-8:00 PM 1:30 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Evangelism / Stewardship 6:00 PM Board of Christian Ed 6:00 PM Day School Board 6:30 PM Trustees	9 6:00 PM WNA Confirmation Class 8:00 PM Senior High Youth	10 7:00 AM Bible Class @First Street Coffee Station 12:30 PM Bible Study	11	12 5:30 PM Blended Worship w/Holy Communion
13 9:00 AM Outdoor Worship - Prayer & Preaching w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Bible Study (In person and on the St. John Church and School youtube channel)	14 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	15 JOURNAL ARTICLES DUE HOLY COMMUNION from 1:00-3:00 PM and 6:00-8:00 PM 1:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Executive Board	16 6:00 PM WNA Confirmation Class 8:00 PM Senior High Youth	17 7:00 AM Bible Class @First Street Coffee Station 12:30 PM Bible Study	18	19 5:30 PM Blended Worship w/Holy Communion
20 9:00 AM Divine Service III w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Bible Study (In person and on the St. John Church and School youtube channel)	21 7:30 AM Bible Class @ First Street Coffee Station 6:00 PM Divine Service III w/Holy Communion	22 HOLY COMMUNION from 1:00-3:00 PM and 6:00-8:00 PM 1:30 PM Women's Bible Study	23 6:00 PM WNA Confirmation Class 8:00 PM Senior High Youth	24 7:00 AM Bible Class @First Street Coffee Station 12:30 PM Bible Study	25	26 5:30 PM Blended Worship w/Holy Communion
27 9:00 AM Matins w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Bible Study (In person and on the St. John Church and School youtube channel)	28 7:30 AM Bible Class @ First Street Coffee Station 6:00 PM Prayer & Preaching w/Holy Communion	29 HOLY COMMUNION from 1:00-3:00 PM and 6:00-8:00 PM 1:30 PM Women's Bible Study	30 6:00 PM WNA Confirmation Class 8:00 PM Senior High Youth			