

# Messenger

“By Who’s Authority?”

*“Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.” [Romans 13:1,5-7<sup>NIV</sup>]*

In case you haven't noticed it, we're in an election year. Given this is our every-four-year-cycle of major as well as minor elections, we have been and will continue to be bombarded by news and advertising about all of the races that are ongoing. Frankly this year seems crazier than usual, what with a pandemic and civil unrest added into the mix. Many of us might be wondering if this is a sign of the apocalypse. As it is, in many of the races, it seems that what we are hearing from those who are running for office is the same that has been said in the past. One candidate says they are the best while dismissing the other candidate's credentials. Another candidate claims to be able to solve all of the woes of the electorate if only they would vote for him/her. And no doubt the level of anger from all of the candidates



**ALL WORSHIP  
SERVICES ARE  
LIVE STREAMED  
ON YOUTUBE!**

**ALL ARE  
WELCOME!!**



As we move through these summer months, when we'll be subject to pseudo-conventions and ever-increasing political ads in what seems to be a very long election cycle, I believe it is instructive to remember by whose authority elected public servants get their authority. As we read in the text above, "*there is no authority except which God has established*". In the Kingdom of God, the Redeemer rules all regenerate believers through Jesus and the gospel in personal faith and love. In the king-

dom of men, the Creator rules all sinful but rational creatures through the state and the law in civil justice and order. As both Redeemer and Creator, God is at once the Lord of both kingdoms; as both righteous and sinful, the Christian is at once a subject of both kingdoms. Therefore whether we are empowered by Christ in faith-activated love (Christian righteousness) or compelled by the laws and statutes of the state in law-abiding reason (civil righteousness), the Christian citizen lives not for himself but for the benefit of others.

Notice I used the phrase "*public servants*". The men and women who govern are God's servants and as a consequence are not to use their authority for private gain or to place an undue burden on the populace, but to do all in the name of love and for the benefit of our neighbors. In the Old Testament we have the biblical witness where God overthrows those in power who abuse that power. In today's representative democracy we have the responsibility and the ability to decide if our public servants are using the authority given to them wisely. As we get ready to enter the voting booths on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, let us seek God's guidance in our choices. And let us remember it is by God's authority that we all answer to.

Pr Bob

#### ACOLYTE/READER/SOUND SCHEDULE

DATE	ACOLYTE	READER	SOUND
Aug 2	Tyce	Tegan	Cory/Julie
Aug 9	Nolan	Hayden	Glenn/Kacie
Aug 16	Hayden	Nolan	Todd/Chris
Aug 23	Kaine	Saige	John/Amy
Aug 30	Saige	Kaine	Cory/Julie

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

DATE: September thru May

TIME: Sunday Mornings after worship

LOCATION: Upstairs of church

Lessons are chosen by the teacher based on the age group being taught. All lessons are firmly grounded in the bible.

### CONFIRMATION FOR ALL AGES

DATE: Sept—??

TIME: Wed Evenings

LOCATION: At the Church

Study includes the principles of Lutheran theology and biblical history.

### MORNING CIRCLE

DATE: Third Tuesday of each month

TIME: 10:00 am

LOCATION: Parish Hall

They meet for a time of fellowship and bible study. Currently studying: Revelation Unveiled.

### EVENING CIRCLE

DATE: Third Monday of each month

TIME: 7:00 pm

LOCATION: Parish Hall

They meet for a time of fellowship and bible study. Currently studying: Of One Mind and Purpose.

### MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP BREAKFAST

DATE: First Tuesday of each month

TIME: 6:30 am

LOCATION: Parish Hall

The men of St John meet to share a meal, fellowship and bible study. The meal and lesson are prepared by members of the group on a rotating basis.

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

DATE: Every Sunday

TIME: 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Parish Hall

Study materials are chosen by Pastor. He leads a time of fellowship and learning as the group moves through the chosen material.

### CHRISTIANITY 101

DATE: Every Thursday

TIME: 6:30 pm

LOCATION: Boxum's Home

Members of this group study the basic tenants of Christianity and the history of the faith.

### TUESDAY MORNING TEXT STUDY

DATE: Every Tuesday

TIME: 10:00 am

LOCATION: Currently undecided

Members of this group spend some time in fellowship and looking at the upcoming text (usually the gospel) in depth.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN THE LEARNING!



## A PRAYER FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Dear God, we come to you today asking your blessing on our school administrators. Thank you that they have answered the call to lead our teachers and schools so that our children might learn in a safe and nurturing environment conducive to academic and personal success.

Bless our school administrators with wisdom, integrity, a sense of humor, patience and the physical and mental energy equal to their tasks. Bless them with strong support from parents, teachers and the community.

Give them insights into each teacher's unique gifts, strengths and abilities so that they might use each teacher in ways that contribute greatly to the common good. Reward them by allowing them see the fruits of their labor displayed in the success of their teachers and students. Accept our prayer today as an expression of our gratefulness to you and to them for their dedication in making our schools a central and vital part of our community.

Amen

## AUGUST SCRIPTURE READINGS

### 8/2 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

OT – Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 136:1-9

NT – Romans 9:1-5

**Gospel – Matthew 14:13-21**

### 8/9 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

OT – Job 38:4-18

Psalm 18: 1-6

NT – Romans 10:5-17

**Gospel – Matthew 14:22-33**

### 8/16 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

OT – Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalm 67

NT – Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32

**Gospel – Matthew 15:21-28**

Jesus heals a persistent woman

### 8/23 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

OT – Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm 138

NT – Romans 11:33-12:8

**Gospel – Matthew 16:13-20**

### 8/30 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

OT – Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm 26

NT – Romans 12:9-21

**Gospel – Matthew 16:21-28**

## Council Highlights

Council met on Thursday, July 9th at 8:00 pm.

Items brought for discussion included:

- 1) Church Workday scheduled for Saturday, August 15.
- 2) Mission Festival scheduled for Sunday, October 11.
- 3) Handrails soon to be installed on the church addition & parsonage entryways
- 4) Plans are being made to update the entrance to the church and the upstairs room that leads to the bell tower.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5th at 8:00 pm.



*"Today's sermon will be followed immediately by a rebuttal from the opposition."*

*Please call or text prayer requests to Pastor Bob @ 1 (360) 355 2144*

## PRAYER CONCERNS

*Ken Neusendorfer*

*Michelle Gaddis*

*Jo Nixon*

*Loren and Mary Jane Zabel*

*Dean and Dorothy Seems*

*Sharol Meyer*

*Roger & Laverna Yarnell*

*Milton Meyer*

*Dale Gemeahlich*

*Joanne Armann*

*Rayna Massey*

*Larry Gibson*

*TyLynn Blank.*

*Kelly Burgess*

*Marlene Wolf*

*Blaine Mapes*

*Devin Schockly*

*Darryl Vohs*

*Dennis Schmidt*

*Our country and it's leaders*

*Pr Dave Sarver*

*Virgil Henry*

*Myra Kirchhoff*

*Milford Kirchhoff*

*Dorothy Wire*

*Dashawn Eller*

*Andy Lambert*

*Hayden Lehmann*

*Fern Stinely*

## BIRTHDAYS

1 Blake Kirchhoff  
2 Dean Seams  
2 Dorothy Wire  
2 Trevor Engelke  
6 Blondina Kuhlmann  
8 Randy Allen  
9 Max Dannenberg  
9 Kaid Lehmann  
9 Mary Jane Zabel  
10 Hayden Lehmann  
10 Blayne Mapes  
11 Kai Kirchhoff  
12 Penny McKenzie  
14 Gary Frieling  
17 Brad Cole  
17 Lovelle Kirchhoff  
20 Crystal Boxum  
21 Laura Zabel  
22 Brenda Frieling  
23 Loretta Beckmann  
23 Julie Kuhlmann  
24 Matthew Beckmann  
31 Mark Kuhlmann  
31 Doug Gibson

## ANNIVERSARIES

8 Mr & Mrs Bob Wire  
24 Mr & Mrs Ray Montgomery  
24 Mr & Mrs Gary Frieling  
24 Mr & Mrs Loren Zabel  
25 Mr & Mrs David Feldmann  
30 Mr & Mrs Raegan Kirchhoff

## BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

1 Randy Allen  
1 Gary Gerstenkorn  
4 Brennan Kirchhoff  
4 Derek Reed  
7 Maryanne Kirchhoff  
8 Saige Kirchhoff  
14 Brittany Kirchhoff  
19 Sherri Frieling  
23 Tyce McKenzie



*Watch [www.stjohnlutheranathol.com](http://www.stjohnlutheranathol.com) and Facebook for updates to the schedule of events.*





THOUGHTS

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**Aug 1**

2 Kings 17  
Psalm 27

**Aug 2**

2 Kings 18  
Psalm 28

**Aug 3**

2 Kings 19-20  
Psalm 29

**Aug 4**

2 Kings 21  
Psalm 30

**Aug 5**

2 Kings 22.1-23.35  
Psalm 31

**Aug 6**

2 Kings 23.36-25.30  
Psalm 32

**Aug 7**

Catch-up day  
Psalm 33

**Aug 8**

Catch-up day  
Psalm 34

**Aug 9**

1 Chron 1-2  
Psalm 35

**Aug 10**

1 Chron 3-4  
Psalm 36

**Aug 11**

1 Chron 5-6  
Psalm 37

**Aug 12**

1 Chron 7-8  
Psalm 38

**Aug 13**

1 Chron 9  
Psalm 39

**Aug 14**

1 Chron 10  
Psalm 40

**Aug 15**

1 Chron 11-12  
Psalm 41

**Aug 16**

1 Chron 13-14  
Psalm 42

**Aug 17**

1 Chron 15-16  
Psalm 43

**Aug 18**

1 Chron 17  
Psalm 44

**Aug 19**

1 Chron 18-19  
Psalm 45

**Aug 20**

1 Chron 20.1-22.1  
Psalm 46

**Aug 21**

1 Chron 22.2-19  
Psalm 47

**Aug 22**

1 Chron 23-24  
Psalm 48

**Aug 23**

1 Chron 25-26  
Psalm 49

**Aug 24**

1 Chron 27-28  
Psalm 50

**Aug 25**

1 Chron 29  
Psalm 51

**Aug 26**

Catch-up day  
Psalm 52

**Aug 27**

Catch-up day  
Psalm 53

**Aug 28**

2 Chron 1-2  
Psalm 54

**Aug 29**

2 Chron 3.1-5.1  
Psalm 55

**Aug 30**

2 Chron 5.2-6.42  
Psalm 56

**Aug 31**

2 Chron 7  
Psalm 57

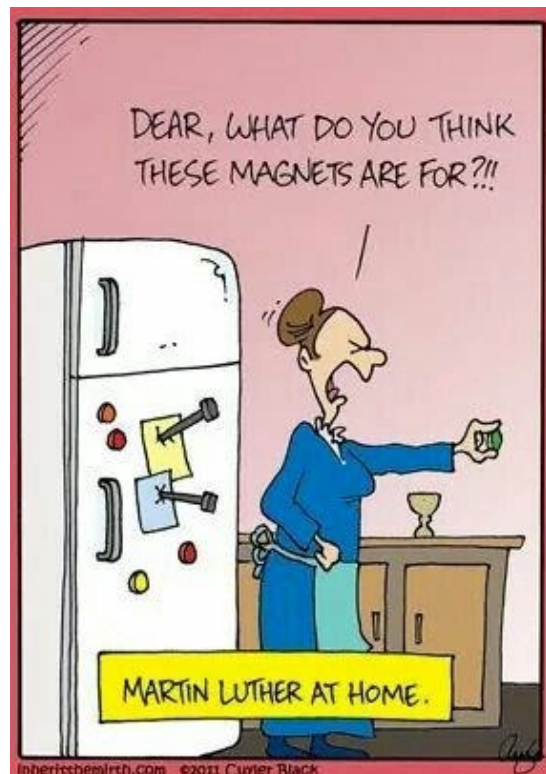


## HOW LUTHER'S ROSE SUMMARIZES THE GOSPEL

The most enduring symbol of the Lutheran Reformation is the seal that Luther himself designed to represent his theology. By the early 1520s, this seal begins to appear on the title page of Luther's works.

Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning:

*First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.*





# St John Calendar of Events

◀ ▶ August 2020		Mon 27	Tue 28	Wed 29	Thu 30	Fri 31	Sat 1
Sun 26	9:30 AM WORSHIP with Holy Communion			12 PM Bulletin Deadline	6:30 PM Christianity 101		
2	9:30 AM WORSHIP with Holy Communion	3	4	5	6	7	8
			6:30 AM Men's Discipleship Breakfast	12 PM Bulletin Deadline 8 PM Council Meeting	6:30 PM Christianity 101		
9	9:30 AM WORSHIP	10	11	12	13	14	15
				12 PM Bulletin Deadline	6:30 PM Christianity 101		
16	9:30 AM WORSHIP with Holy Communion	17	18	19	20	21	22
		7 PM Evening Circle	10 AM Morning Circle	12 PM Bulletin Deadline	6:30 PM Christianity 101		
23	9:30 AM WORSHIP	24	25	26	27	28	29
				12 PM Bulletin Deadline	6:30 PM Christianity 101		
30	9:30 AM WORSHIP with Holy Communion	31	1	2	3	4	5
			6:30 AM Men's Discipleship Breakfast	12 PM Bulletin Deadline	6:30 PM Christianity 101		

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor—Robert Sinclair.....1(360) 355-2144.....[rsinclair001@luthersem.edu](mailto:rsinclair001@luthersem.edu)

### Council Members

Glenn Timmons

Gary Frieling

Nancy Horning

Mike Kirchhoff

Vicki Hutchison

Garen Kuhlmann

Secretary—Tayln & Penny McKenzie .....1(785)282-0216.....[penny.mckenzie@yahoo.com](mailto:penny.mckenzie@yahoo.com)



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