

St. John News

September 2024

Your Pastor RevSEZ...

We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land.

But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand...

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.

Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord for all his love.

(LBW #362)

The “fruits of the harvest” are upon us and all around us. One cannot drive the roads around Fairfield without seeing the abundance of blessings of this Fall season. Farmers are bailing hay, cutting corn and the soybeans continue to grow. This is a time of the year – a season – to ponder the bounty which God provides for us. These good gifts that God provides for us are indeed signs of his gracious love. We plant and tend the crops, but it is God who makes them to grow and produce seed.

This is also true of our spiritual lives. During the past six weeks of our worship we have heard the Gospel writer, John quoting Jesus declaring himself to be “The Bread of Life.” Jesus tells us that just as the human body needs bread for life, so too our spirits need the spiritual food and nourishment that only Jesus can provide. Jesus promises that *if we eat of this bread we will live forever* (John 6:58). *If we come unto him we will never hunger and if we believe in him we will never thirst* (John 6:35).

Each week Jesus invites his disciple (us) to gather around his Feast of Thanksgiving” to meet him as revealed in the gifts of bread and wine. And as we commune together we feast on nothing less than his very body and blood. This is how the Lord “feeds and waters” us for spiritual growth. Through these gifts of bread and wine he lives in us, that we might we live in him... forever and ever! Amen!

The eyes of all creatures look to you, O God, and you provide food in due season. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. Bless these gifts, O Lord, that we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-Luther's Table Blessing

In the grace of Jesus' love,

✠ *Pastor Scott Zimmerer*

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

SEPT 1, 2024 Lectionary 22 Pentecost 15

Theme: *Jesus questions human tradition against church law and what it is that makes a person “unclean?”*

Scripture: James 1:17-27 ~ Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Message: *Oscar or Felix?*

SEPT 8, 2024 Lectionary 23 Pentecost 16

Theme: *God is the Lord of Creation and the harvest*

Note: This will be an outdoor service at 10:00 with a “taco picnic” following worship held at Carroll Valley Park

SEPT 15, 2024 Lectionary 24 Pentecost 17

Theme: *Peter confesses to Jesus: “You are the Messiah”*

Scripture: Isaiah 50:4-9a ~ Psalm 116:1-9 ~ Mark 8:27-38

Message: *A Cross, Not a Boomerang*

SEPT 22, 2024 Lectionary 25 Pentecost 18

Theme: *Take up your cross and follow me*

Scripture: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a ~ Psalm 54 ~ Mark 9:30-37

Message: TBD

SEPT 29, 2024 Lectionary 26 Pentecost 19

Theme: *If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off...*

Scripture: James 5:13-20 ! Psalm 19:7-14 ~ Mark 9:38-50

Sermon: TBD

Women of St. John

The Women of St. John needs your help. We are making health kits for the students that receive Ruth Harvest meals in grades 1 through 4 at Fairfield Elementary. That is between 40 and 60 students. We will need the following items: toothbrush/tooth paste, shampoo, tissues (individual packs), comb/brush, washcloth and soap. There is a basket in the gathering area for your donations. Thank you for your help, support and donations. We will be collecting items until September 29th. Thank you for your help and support.

Craft Vendors

Spread the word! There are several spaces available for more craft vendors for the November 16th craft fair. All crafters are welcome. Applications are in the gathering area and on the website. See Sue, Dawn, Linda or Nancy with questions.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who participated or came out to be in the audience for the talent show. We had a great time! We appreciate everyone who was willing to share their talents!

Thank you to the "Corn Crew" for husking, cooking, cutting, and bagging corn for our Pippinfest soup sale!

Thank you to Eddie Deardorff for providing sweet corn for the soup sale.



James and Adam McCleaf

They attended the Team Sports Camp at Nawakwa this summer. James's favorite part playing water polo. Adam's favorite part was learning how to play volleyball.



Josh & Stacey Haynes Family

We attended Family Camp week 2 at Nawakwa this summer. Our favorite part of camp was worship every night as a family.



Christian Ed News

Children's Sunday School

Sunday, September 8th we will have activities for the children at 12 noon at Carroll Valley Park after our outdoor worship service and meal.

Sunday, September 15th, 10:15-11:15. Children preschool -high school activities include crafts, Bible story, music, & games.

There will be no Sunday School Sept. 29 due to Pippinfest activities.

For more information, contact Carol Garman (717-476-0923) or Stacey Haynes (717-398-7877)

Donations for Hillside

Thank you to all who have and continue to donate to Hillside.

\$1,115.00 was collected so far in 2024.

thank you

Prayer List

Charles (Sam), Thomas, Wilma, Rosie, Ed, John, Craig, Judy, Bob, Charlie, Essie, Audrey, Jim, Jim & Mary Lou.



MUSIC NEWS

Thank you to all our musicians who shared their talents during worship in August.

There are still opportunities available for vocal & instrumental solos, duets etc.. Let me know if you know of someone who might be willing to share their talents!

Children's Choir practices Sunday mornings during Sunday School.

With One Voice and Hand Bell Choirs will begin their new season with food & fellowship, Weds. Sept 4, 6PM. Regular rehearsals begin Weds.

Sept. 11. 6:45 for WOV & 7:30 for Bells. New members are welcome!

For more information on any of the above, contact Carol Garman, 717-476-0923

October Newsletter Deadline

Please have newsletter submissions into the office by **Wednesday, September 25.**

Worship in the Park

Worship, Rally Day, Lunch, and Children's Activities will be held at Carroll Valley Park on Sunday, September 8th. **Worship Service at 10AM** followed by a "Taco Picnic", Rally Day, and Children's Activities. Sign up in the Gathering Area. Donations, of drinks and desserts, are needed.