



MESSENGER NEWSLETTER
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 "The small church with a BIG heart: Ordinary people
 With an extra ordinary message!"
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VOLUME 52, ISSUE 8 **AUGUST, 2020**

Dear Friends and Members of St. John's Congregations, Brothers and Sisters in Christ Fellow Redeemed,

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
Schubert and Babbtown
News

Calendar for August 2020

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

BABBTOWN
8:00 A.M. Worship
(Holy Communion 2nd &
4th Sunday)

SCHUBERT
10:00 A.M. Worship with
(Holy Communion)
Also Streaming on
Facebook

7:00 pm Wednesday
Night Bible Study
Also Streaming on
Facebook

We are now entering the month of August—still we are plagued with the threat of the Covid-19 Virus. In fact the virus is getting much closer to home as friends, relatives and family members test positive—yes even die! Many people are becoming a bit weary of dealing with the whole scenario of the restrictions and the changes of life styles that have been brought about by this pandemic. So where do we turn to find relief from the circumstances which threaten us and keep us from our regular way of life?

The appointed Epistle reading for Sunday, July 26 is Romans 8:28ff. In verse 28 we read, "We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purposes".

This is truly a timely passage for us to meditate upon during the Covid-19 crisis. God is working for our good! He is bringing about blessing through that which causes suffering.

We do not necessarily see the good that is promised, but we know and believe that what God promises will indeed be fulfilled. Behind the scenes God is at work and God is in control. We have His word of promise and we have His actions to prove it—the action of giving His only Son Jesus to be the offering for our sin—and the sin of the world. Because of this we know that God, who loves us this much will be with us and bless us in all circumstances.

Apply this promise to the situation in the world today and we can give thanks in all circumstances and trust God's promise to work good even through the Corona Virus.

Good is coming to us through it—God has promised!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor

Something to think about:

Last Sunday, while taking a vacation Sunday, I, with my family, joined for worship with you on live stream. Before this I had always been on the other side of the camera.

As I sat at home with a hymnal in my hand, singing and praying with those in church and many more at home, I realized that God is teaching us an important lesson. We are being re-taught that the home is our own personal sanctuary. We all need a

home altar, a place where we intentionally read God's word (out loud), sing hymns and psalms and spiritual songs, pray with our family and worship God with our hearts.

We all know that we should be doing this—but do we actually take or make the time?

Remember God has warned us that the times will get tougher. He tells us that even believers will be tested to the brink. We see the warnings all around that things are not right, evil is on every side and the possibly exists that our freedom to worship—as we enjoy it—may one day be removed.

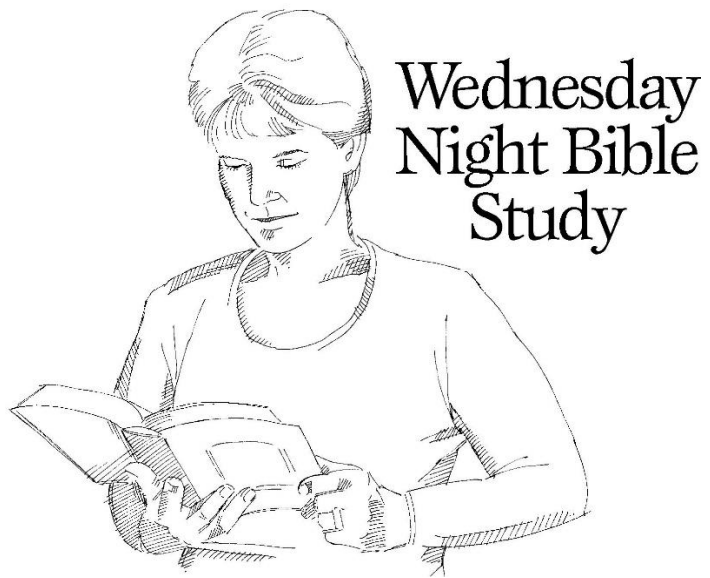
So we are getting some training on how to handle this, by remaining faithful and teaching the faith to our children. Our homes become the sanctuary to the Lord and His word is our gift to use, to teach and to share.

It is my prayer that your home is the place where you put God at the center of your life and where you worship with your family every day.

P.S. This does not take the place of the local congregation where we meet with the rest of our family in Christ, but rather it is the place where we go to put into action the instruction of God's Word.

SPEAKING FOR LIFE

“Our lives may be full of stress, but Jesus is with us as He has always been—walking with us, holding us in His hands, keeping us in His care. Nothing can take God's love away from us. Nothing, not even death—not even death on a cross!—can keep Jesus from the people He came to save.” Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org



FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

We have added weekly Bible study to the calendar, Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

Join us live or live stream.

May God bless us as we spend time in His Word!
(Check email—sometimes we might have to cancel.)

*Friendly
Reminders*

Since not everyone is able to join us for public worship on Sunday, it is easy to lose contact with families and individuals. Please check your email for bulletin announcements and newsletter.

Call Pastor if you desire private communion.

Call if you need special pastoral care.

May God bless our congregation as we minister the Gospel in these unique times.



SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

COVID Worries

Two changes of contact for our shut-ins.

Mary Bisbee has moved from Primrose to be close to her daughter Deborah Lemke.

Contact Information:
2061 Gap Creek Road
Greer, SC 29651
(864) 203-3243

Lois Loduca has moved from General Baptists in Linn to:

1405 A Bertha
Jefferson City, MO 65109

News from the LWML Convention as follows:

Crystal Lueckenhoff from Faith Lutheran was elected Vice President of Christian Life. Christ the King Lutheran Church was given a \$10,000 grant for Comfort Dog Ministry.

After speaking with Pastor is was decided to cancel our August Ladies Aide meeting. The Fall Rally which is to be held in California Missouri there is no news about it at this time. I will keep the ladies update as soon as I hear of any news. Our next meeting is to be held in November and then Ladies Night out in December. Plans will be made for this at the next meeting. Be safe in the trying time.

Jeannette Essen

C.O.F.F.E.E. (Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Ever where)

Here are some worries that I have felt or heard from others since the COVID pandemic started:

- Will I be able to keep my job?
- If I can't keep my job, how will I pay my bills?
- If school is closed, how will my kids learn?
- If school is closed, who will take care of my kids?
- If I stay home to teach and take care of my kids, how will I work?
- If church is closed, how will I worship with others?
- Will stores run out of food?
- What if someone in my family gets sick—how will the rest of us stay healthy?

The list goes on and on because our worries go on and on about every aspect of our lives—physical, emotional, and spiritual. For many of us, the pandemic has brought multiple worries and has elevated them to levels higher than ever before. Stress is high.

Worrying makes us anxious, can keep us awake, and stresses us out even more. Worrying can even make us sick. So why do we do it? We worry because we are human and don't fully believe or trust that God is in control.

Yet God has given us directions for exactly what to do with our worries.

Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Ask and pray. Give thanks to him. Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds because you belong to Christ Jesus. God's peace can never be completely understood. Philippians 4:6-7.

We worry because we forget that God loves us and has a plan for us that is greater than we can understand or even imagine. God wants us to leave our worries with Him—even big COVID worries.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6.

God's Blessings!

Kevin Lohraff

Blessings to you in the name of God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer and the Holy Spirit who sustains us,

Since this is an election year, this article will continue with the second half of the pamphlet from Lutherans For Life entitled "**Is Abortion an Election Issue?**"

"4. Abortion isn't simply a personal issue. Abortion connects directly to the common good, especially to that of the least of these. It occurs at the juncture between the desires of the one and the requirements of another and the rest. It puts a thumb on the scales that balance corporate priorities with private ones; individual actions with civic impacts; and our limited, shared resources with our legitimate specific needs. As much as we might like to keep the reality of abortion behind closed doors, it infiltrates into our public consciousness, conversation, and collaborating. And given its significant stakes and manifold casualties, this is where it belongs.

"5. Abortion isn't only a women's issue. Abortion puts an offspring to death—that makes abortion a children's issue. Every offspring descends from both a mother and a father—that makes abortion a man's issue. It also affects the employers and clients, neighbors and acquaintances of mother, father, and child. And it involves physicians and assistants, pharmacists and manufacturers, journalists and ethicists, students and researchers, officials and citizens in similar situations. In fact, abortion demands reckoning from us all, because these are our neighbors, and this is our nation.

"6. Abortion isn't only a religious issue. Opposing abortion doesn't impose a doctrine. It acknowledges scientific data—that fertilization brings into being a distinct human life. Opposing abortion doesn't compel a certain faith. It accepts particular facts—that killing judicially innocent human lives makes civilization impossible and renders governments irrelevant. Outlawing abortion doesn't favor a church—it favors safety, freedom, and fairness for all. Outlawing abortion doesn't prefer one tradition over others—it defends every member of the human race.

"7. Abortion isn't merely a Gospel issue. The Scriptures have much to say about the sanctity of human life. The Gospel of Jesus Christ declares and demonstrates that God creates, redeems, and calls each one as His own precious treasure forever. Christianity explores what this means for how we treat them. But even apart from this, the biological laws of nature lay on us the duty to look after our little ones. Prohibiting abortion is a fact of life and a function of humanity. It's a matter of right versus wrong and life versus death. And that's the proper realm of government and regulation.

"8. Abortion isn't merely a Law issue. Pregnancy means we have responsibilities as a community. This holds true even when we have no hereditary relationship to mother or baby. God the Almighty Maker has made parents and child our neighbors. But it also gives us privileges. We get to speak a truth that changes hearts and shows a love that saves lives. Pregnancy's responsibilities come with wonderful opportunities. It invites us to receive every child (and his or her family!) as a gift from our Heavenly Father with whom we can share all the blessings He promises.

"9. Abortion isn't one issue among others. In fact, abortion itself isn't the issue. Rather, what makes one human and what makes human life worthwhile are fundamental. All of our deliberations, discussions, and decisions about absolutely anything else follow from it. Though we can debate the best "how," we have neither room to negotiate nor right to compromise about "whether" we protect the threatened among us. The inalienable and heaven-given right to life is primary. Liberty and the pursuit of happiness remain greatly important, but secondary.

"10. Abortion isn't somebody else's issue. It's your business, it's my business, and it's our business. It's our issue as Christians, it's our issue as citizens, and it's our issue as human beings. Abortion and the sanctity of every human life matter very much for elections—more so than anything else. And it matters for much more than elections. It's a whole life issue!" (Pastor Michael Saleminck, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, LifeDate, Summer 2020)

Be bold in your defense of life!
Sylvia Glen

BABBTOWN NEWS

**CLEANING FOR
PARISH HOUSE
AUGUST, 2020**
Skye and Kayla Schubert

**BAPTISM
BIRTHDAY
AUGUST, 2020**
August 21, Judy Yeary

SCHUBERT



USHER SCHEDULE

- Aug 2 Gene Walkenhorst
Andy Beach
Silas Luetkemeyer
Gary Lofton
- Aug 9 Gene Walkenhorst
George Kuhlman
Eric Lofton
Dale Schmutzler
- Aug16 Gene Walkenhorst
Mike Forbis
Dave Mueller
Dale Ludwig
- Aug23 Gene Walkenhorst
Kevin Lohraff
Berry Wiggins
Sherri Russell
- Aug30 Gene Walkenhorst
Mike Forbis
Ross Schmutzler
Bob Nienhueser

- Aug 1 Vickie Mueller
- Aug 2 Kaelynn Haslag
- Aug 5 Derrick Mueller
Justin Mueller
- Aug 6 Max Stroup
- Aug11 Ellen Boeckmann
Michael Forbis
- Aug13 Teresa Wehmeyer
- Aug14 Mary Bisbee
- Aug16 Isabella Larkins
- Aug18 Dorice Colter
Trent Ludwig
Sharen Green
- Aug19 Elliott Grothoff
- Aug23 David Forbis
Gary Stroup
- Aug24 Marshall Gibson
Ava Willson
- Aug28 Chloe Baker
Claire Prohaska
- Aug29 Taylor Titus
- Aug30 Megan Wiggins
- Aug31 Charles Backman
John Essen

SEPTEMBER, 2020
Newsletter Items are
Due AUGUST 23, 2020
Newsletter items may be
placed in either Pastor's or
Jan's mailbox.

Or they may be e-mailed to
Pastor Schepeler—
st.jschubert@outlook.com
Any announcement:
Weddings, birthdays,
anniversaries, personal
notes, pictures or church
related business are
welcome.

CLEANING COMMITTEE

Carol Pleus
Deb Rademan

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Brenner
Ronda Williams