

**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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Schubert

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VOLUME 52, ISSUE 9**SEPTEMBER, 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 September
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

I have said it before and I will say it again, we are suffering from a danger that is much worse than the Covid-19 Virus, it is more deadly, more dangerous, more evil, and more wide-spread.

Of course by now you have guessed that what I am talking about is sin. Sin is something that we come to face with on a daily basis. The great news is that Jesus has rescued from sin and its destruction! The bad news is that we live in the midst of a fallen world where we come face to face with sin and its evil every day!

We continually see this in our society where rage and anger and violence are all around. We see it as lies permeate the media and one cannot sort out the facts. We realize that many who desire to speak out for the Christian faith do not clearly proclaim the truth of Holy Scripture. We are surrounded by evil and the influence of evil.

Where do we turn, what do we do? Last Sunday we had the Epistle reading from Romans 12:1. Paul was encouraging the church at Rome not to give in or give up, so he writes these words: "*I appeal to you therefore, brothers by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice...don't be conformed to this world...etc.*" There are two very important points here:

1. The appeal is made from the mercies of God.

And

2. The desired result is to be 'living sacrifice...not conforming to the ways of the world.

Dear friends in Christ, listen carefully. These words are spoken to us also—in the midst of the wickedness of the world around us.

--And there is more--.

In this coming Sunday's Epistle-(Which is a continuation from last week) we have this word of encouragement in verse 21 "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Continued)

Remember only God is Good and only God can and will bring about real justice. Our response is to continue to do good.

Now is not the time to get lax in your faith and your spiritual walk. Come and worship in person or if you need—worship online. Study the scripture teach and nurture your children with the true Word of God. Draw closer to your Lord.

Remember we are fighting more than a virus!

In Christ's Love
Pastor

SPEAKING FOR LIFE

“As Christians, we understand better than most that life is weighted with profound suffering and buoyed by eternal hope. As such, it’s time to raise our children to appreciate what a big, beautiful struggle parenthood is and that it simply cannot happen without offering compassion, love, and grace to children still in the womb and to the mothers and fathers who view the scales more filled with suffering than hope.” Tawnia Hoehne, Frazee, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

Friendly Reminders

While we are in this disruption mode of Covid-caused social distancing and live streaming, we are still providing worship and bible study, we offer private, individual/family communion on request. We have devotional material (SS My Times and My Devotions) in the mail boxes for the children.

We have Portals of Prayer and Lutheran Witness available to be picked up and I have a phone for whenever you need to talk or to check in.

God Blessing as we muddle through this!

The board of Christian Education will be meeting shortly to see how we can implement S. School and Confirmation instruction and plan for Christian Education events. Please Stay Tuned.

If you are interested in attending a Saturday evening worship—designed for greater social distancing and mask on, please let Pastor or an Elder know so that we could address this possibility.

A BUSHEL OF BOOKS



Design a handy bag to tote your books this fall.

What you need:

- Plain canvas bag
- Cardboard scrap
- Acrylic paints (2 colors)
- 2 small paper plates
- Apple
- Knife (and adult help)
- Foam brush
- Scrap paper

What you do:

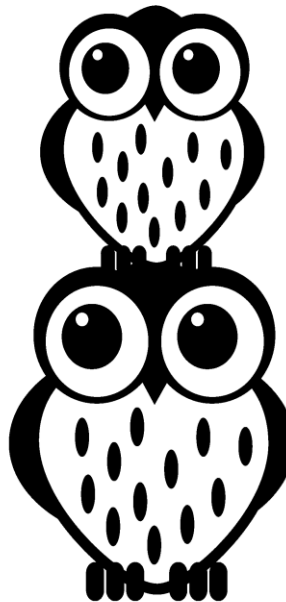
1. Lay the bag flat on a table, and place cardboard inside for protection.
2. Pour a paint dollop on each plate.
3. Slice the apple in half, keeping the core intact.
4. Brush a thin layer of paint on the cut side of an apple half. Practice making stamps on scrap paper. Use the other color on the other apple half.
5. Paint and stamp the bag with your final design. When dry, remove the cardboard.
6. Use the bag for school and Sunday school. Happy reading!



WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.



school	— ○ — — —
paper	— ○ —
wisdom	— — ○ —
read	— — — ○
play	— — — — —
learn	○ — — — —
grow	— ○ — — — —
pencils	— — — —
pray	— ○ — —
art	— — — —
student	— — — ○ — —
kids	— — ○ — — —
apple	— — ○ — — —

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be _____ and successful.”

JOSHUA 1:8, NIV

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus who told Martha that only "One thing is necessary, the good portion".

It seems everyone is anxious and worried about many things these days. You know what causes your fear and anxiety. However, the problem is not what worries us but the fact that we trust in something other than God to provide for our well-being and happiness. Dr. James Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life addresses the anxiety an infertile couple faces in the following article entitled "Hope for the Infertile Couple":

"Assisted reproductive technology (ART) offers hope for couples dealing with the pain of infertility. But ART sometimes fails. It does not always work for every couple. Some such technologies are problematic for the Christian because of moral and spiritual problems inherent in them. Infertile couples need a hope that transcends ART and one that will not fail.

"Such hope can be found only in the risen Jesus and the promises that find their "yes" in Him. But first it is important to look at what God does not promise. There is nothing in Scripture that declares that having children is a right granted to couples. Children are a gift from God, an **"inheritance"** (Psalms 127:3). No one has a right to an inheritance. The granting of an inheritance is according to the will and goodness of the giver.

"God is the giver of life (Job 12:10). God is the one who opens and closes wombs (Genesis 20:18, 29:31). He does so according to His express purpose. For example, Sarai's womb was closed to emphasize that Isaac was a child of promise (Galatians 4:27-28). Elizabeth's womb was closed to show the importance and significance of John the Baptist. Christian couples should never feel that infertility is the result of being punished for some specific sin. That is not how God relates to His people in Christ. He has taken the curse of sin and placed it on His Son (Galatians 3:13). He was punished in our place (Isaiah 53:5). Infertility is the result of sin in general. Our bodies are not the perfect bodies God intended us to have. They are subject to disease and imperfections. Certainly infertility can be the consequence of bad choices, but most often it is due to circumstances over which couples have little control.

"Thus, as painful as infertility is, there is no promise that even Christian couples are somehow entitled to conceive and bear their own child. Nor are they free as Christians to pursue reproductive technologies or treatments that are outside the parameters of the one-flesh union of husband and wife or those that involve the inherent destruction of life in order to achieve a pregnancy. Sometimes Christian couples are called upon to accept their infertility, not as chastisement from God, but as an opportunity to strengthen their faith and be a witness to others to trust in the Lord of Life.

"This is where the true and unfailing promises of God are so important. The one we turn to frequently is Romans 8:28 (GOD'S WORD): **We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God--those whom he has called according to his plan.**" Sometimes, however, we fail to see the significance of the last phrase, "according to his plan." In spite of sin and imperfection, God's plans are always carried out for His people (Jeremiah 19:11). A plan God has for an infertile couple, for example, might very well be that He has in mind a child for them to parent through adoption.

"Another hope-filled promise is found in Proverbs 3:5-6 (GOD'S WORD): **Trust the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths smooth.**" Human understanding is not enough when dealing with childlessness. It is hard to understand. Hearts are heavy and the questions are many. Leaning too heavily on our own understanding can either lead to hopelessness or to paths for remedy that may not be God-pleasing. Abram and Sara, for example, tried to deal with their infertility by having Abram impregnate Sarai's handmaid, Hagar. This was not the path God had chosen, and it only led to bitterness and constant strife. Real hope is found in trusting that God knows the journey He wants us on and will direct our steps (Proverbs 16:9). I remember a childless couple in my former congregation. The path God laid out for them was that they became "mother and father" and spiritual mentors to hundreds of children as they taught Sunday school for a combined total of 85 years!

"A final and foundational promise from 1 John 4:9 (GOD'S WORD): **"God has shown us his love by sending his only Son into the world so that we could have life through him."** Infertile Christian couples are going to have all kinds of doubts and fears. But one thing they need not doubt is the love of God. One thing they need not fear is being forsaken by Him. The assurance of God's love is not determined by the blessings that He gives or withholds. The assurance of God's love is in the cross where He "purchased and won" us. The assurance of God's presence is in the empty tomb. A risen Savior is a present Savior. People who are loved by God, people with whom God is constantly present, are never without hope!" (Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, **"Hope for the Infertile Couple"**, LifeDate Winter 2015)

Trust in God, your true hope in all circumstances,
Sylvia Glenn

Feel free to call me (573-592-7866) for information or concerns about life issues. For those who have had an abortion, there is a word of hope! "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3). For confidential post-abortion referral, counsel, and reconciliation call WORD of HOPE, toll-free 888-217-8679, or Greetings in the name of Jesus, our resurrected Savior!

BABBTOWN NEWS

**CLEANING FOR
PARISH HOUSE
SEPTEMBER, 2020**
Arnold and Theresa
Mueller

**BAPTISM
BIRTHDAY
September, 2020**
Sept 16, Joyce Jarvis
Sept 21, Ava Joy Bunker
Sept 23, Ricky Jarvis
Sept 25, Ron Schubert

SCHUBERT

USHER SCHEDULE

Sept 6 Kurt Boeckmann
Andy Beach
Silas Luetkemeyer
Gary Lofton

Sept13 Kurt Boeckmann
George Kuhlman
Eric Lofton
Dale Schmutzler

Sept20 Kurt Boeckmann
Mike Forbis
Dave Mueller
Dale Ludwig

Sept27 Kurt Boeckmann
Kevin Lohraff
Berry Wiggin
Sherrie Russell



Sept 1 Delma Goser
Jan Morris
Sept 2 Steven Brenner
Sept 3 Ashley Thoenen
Sept 9 Alexis Kremer
Autumn Kremer
Samuel Luetkemeyer
Silas Luetkemeyer
Sept14 Jeanette Wiggins
Sept16 Wilma Kollmeyer
Sept18 Josh Kollmeyer
Matt Kollmeyer
Sept19 Peyton Bohl
Sept20 Ronda Williams
Sept23 Ashley Mueller
Sept27 Michael Dippold

OCTOBER, 2020
**Newsletter Items are
Due SEPTEMBER 20,
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.

ALTAR GUILD

**Linda Brenner
Martha Kleindienst**

CLEANING COMMITTEE

Jim and Linda Kemmer