

ST. JOHN'S MONTHLY

St. John's Lutheran Church and School Newsletter



IN THIS ISSUE

Forward into Battle: 1-2
Missions Update: 2
Birthdays and Anniversaries: 3
Voters' Meeting: 3
VBS: 3
June Calendar: 4

FORWARD INTO BATTLE

by Pastor Mark Bersche

As the Church continues to move forward through history, we must never lose sight of the enemy. We are in battle as we sail the Church through the waters of baptism onto the battlefield, armed with the sword of the Spirit, to rally around the cross of a crucified and risen Savior.

Our world can be a cruel place for those who belong to Christ. Jesus tells us this in Matthew 10:16-20: *"Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to*

speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." [1]

Sometimes we ourselves play the part of the enemy. We often think of ourselves higher than we should. Paul gently reminds us of this in Ephesians 2:11-22 and gives us the proper perspective. *"Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in*
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FORWARD INTO BATTLE

(continued)

himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” [2].

We are a family, the household of God, as Paul says, and our goal is to love one another so that we may continue the mission of preaching the gospel. We desire peace, but peace is something the enemy won't allow. We are still on the battlefield, and because of Christ, we will be under constant bombardment.

Jesus has already warned us of this attack in Matthew 10:32–39: *“So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” [3]*

This is the reality of the world in which we live, and we must still navigate through these waters, marching onward toward the day of Christ's return. What will take us through? The answer is our rally point, the cross, where Jesus paid the price for you and me.

Everyone who complains, everyone who bickers and fights, everyone who disagrees, does so because in his heart he thinks he is helping to advance the gospel. Therefore, we must always examine ourselves and our intentions: are we really moving the gospel forward, or our own agenda?

In the end, we are all sinful human beings, and even our most righteous actions are tainted [Isaiah 64:6]. We have no recourse but to bow before God and place ourselves into his merciful hands. The Apostle John explains this need for forgiveness in 1 John 1:8–9. *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” [4]*

Therefore, we move forward, shining the light of Christ into a darkened world, and when we feel we've been beaten down, we will rejoice with the Apostles being found worthy to suffer shame for Christ [Acts 5:40–42].

In Christ,
Pastor Bersche

[1]. The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2001). (Mt 10:16–20). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

[2]. The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2001). (Eph 2:11–22). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

[3]. The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2001). (Mt 10:32–39). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

[4]. The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2001). (1 Jn 1:8–9). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

June 1: Darlene Grummer
June 2: Zoey Dailey
June 3: Marvele Evetts, Selma Frazier
June 4: Annie Reiswig
June 6: Ashley Graumann, Legend Reichert
June 7: Gwen O'Loughlin
June 9: Lorelee Hart, Bella Moses-Thomas
June 10: David Fischaber
June 11: Dan Stephens
June 12: Leslie Reichert
June 16: Clara Basford
June 17: Darold Booton, Taylor Levendusky, Aubrey Imoe
June 18: Buddy Kegin
June 22: Tom Hart
June 27: Mark McClanahan, Joan Adams, Abigail Imoe

Anniversaries

June 1: Ray & Jeanne Malson
June 3: Buddy & Debbe Kegin
June 7: Mack & Cora Matthews
June 19: John & Khara O'Loughlin
June 21: Carl & Karen Karner
June 30: Ken & Jane Leeper



VOTERS' MEETING

There will be a Voters' Meeting after the late service on June 2.



VBS

Join us for Vacation Bible School!

When: June 10 - June 13th

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church 1032 NW 12th St. Moore, OK 73160

Who: Ages 3-12



For more information, contact Elisha Basford at 405-742-7355.

JUNE 2024

Events subject to change. If in doubt, contact the activity coordinator!

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|------------------|---|--|------------------|-----|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service followed by Voters' Meeting | 3 | 4 | 5 11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Service | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service | 10 6:00pm VBS | 11 11:30am Senior Saints 6:00pm VBS | 12 11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm VBS | 13 6:00pm VBS | 14 | 15 8:00am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Ice Cream Social |
| 16 Father's Day 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service | 17 | 18 | 19 Juneteenth 11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Service | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service | 24 | 25 11:30am Senior Saints | 26 11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Service | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service | | | | | | |

PUBLISHING DEADLINE

All articles for the July 2024 Newsletter will be due June 23. Please email your articles to office@stjohnsmoore.org. Thank you!

