

THE ST. JOHN NEWS

August 2018

Continuing Education Psalm 1 People

When you think of continuing education, you think of those in technological and medical fields. The need for keeping up with trends is present in a variety of areas of expertise. Doctors and nurses need to be up to speed on new medicines, techniques, and studies that are done in the world of medicine and human care. Any transportation mechanic needs to be current on how modern engines operate and the tools needed to properly maintain them. Those in the world of computers and technology need to keep their equipment and knowledge base just as updated as humanly possible. Teachers, construction workers, and business owners all have a need to keep their education continuing in their field.

While the theology of the Bible never changes, our need for understanding it more thoroughly and completely continues to increase with every passing trend and fad. The Christian Church is constantly being exposed to the prevailing thoughts of a decreasingly Christian society. World religions ebb and flow, with their more subtle elements finding a home in Christians' lives. The Church's high school and college age students are ever more heavily bombarded with blatant attacks against traditional Christian truths and values. All of these instances and more serve to show that it is not only the pastor who needs to be "up" on his Biblical theology. Every Christian has this need: "...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).

That verse from 1 Peter 3 gets thrown around a lot in Christian churches today in an effort to increase your desire as a Christian to be able and willing to defend the faith. But take note of the words leading into that passage: "Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy" (1 Peter 3:13-15). The strength of any Christian in this hostile world is not the Christian himself or herself, but the presence of Christ's Word in them. Knowing well that Word grants a comfort and peace that the world cannot give. Other world religions have promoted suffering as a virtue toward holiness. American culture strives to avoid suffering at every turn. Yet, suffering is at the heart of the theology of the cross. Through the suffering of Christ Jesus comes the glory of everlasting life. There is no mountain of glory without the mountain of Calvary. No resurrection without the crucifixion.

People of the 1st Psalm

You and I as Christians have the only sure foundation in this trying world. Your continuing education and mine in the faith leads to a more beautiful understanding of that glorious truth. You can stand firm in the midst of opposition because you know the truth, and the truth, Jesus says, shall set you free. A great joy of being a Christian is knowing the Gospel of Jesus, knowing that we are saved for eternal life no matter what the devil, the world, and our sinful nature can throw our way. A great joy of being a Christian is that we are a royal priesthood, a chosen people, a people of Psalm 1. If you are not familiar with the first psalm, you should be! It is listed as the first psalm for good reason. The psalm is short and worth memorizing. It reads:

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stands in the way of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water
That yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

continued

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish.

Progression

Hebrew scholars have noted the progression of the verbs in this psalm's opening verse. As the activity of the person decreases, his or her involvement in wickedness increases. From walking to standing to sitting. From the counsel of the wicked, to the way of sinners, to the seat of scoffers. The Christian is blessed who does not follow that path, but rather who delights in the law of the LORD. "Law" in verse 2 is the Hebrew word "Torah." Torah more properly means "instruction." All the counsel of God, including Law and Gospel! As God's child, you delight in God's instruction of the truth of creation and the world around us, along with the saving message of Jesus Christ and him crucified for all sinners.

As a Christian, you have been planted like a tree that is near streams of water. By God's power of rooting you in Christ Jesus in Baptism, you are able to withstand the storms of sin and evil around you. Your faith may be shaken, but the object of your faith never will. Jesus Christ is sure and solid. Christ is your anchor that holds within the veil.

Ancient and Modern Attacks

God's people have undergone attacks all throughout history. The people of Israel were constantly faced with the religions of the non-Hebrews around them. It was just as difficult for them to resist temptation as it is for you and me today. Even so, it was just as important for them to be well-rooted in the Word of God and his theology as it is for us today. To support his people, God enabled them to hear his Word regularly and to memorize the Scriptures, which they could not have as we do today.

Continuing Education Opportunities

Likewise, God wants his people, you and me, to be well-versed in his Scripture. That is why God has seen fit to preserve it for us today, and to make it so readily available in hard copy and digital formats! Make it a habit to study the Bible every day. Join your brothers and sisters in Christ in Bible class on Sundays, on Tuesdays each week, and at LifeLight throughout the year. Growing in the faith is just as important, if not more so, for children and teens. Sunday school classes are offered year-round, and midweek school classes are available for children who are not able to receive Biblical instruction from their day schools.

Rally Day!

Look for all of these opportunities for education, along with more ways to be involved at St. John at this year's Rally Day! It will take place on Sunday, August 26, along with our Church picnic that afternoon.

God bless you richly as his people rooted in his Word, as trees planted by streams of water!

In Christ's service,

Pastor Caithamer

Mission Statement:

United in faith, we serve the Kingdom of God by building lives that are
rooted in the Word, centered on Christ, and motivated by Grace;
to reflect Christ's love and share His Gospel with all.

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT – Families with children of all ages are invited to join us on Friday, September 7, for Faith & Family Night. We'll meet in the fellowship hall and have dinner together, do a family-based devotion that can be taken and replicated in your own family devotions at home, and of course, have playtime for the kids. The times are 5:30-7:00pm, but feel free to come late or leave early if necessary. Sign-up sheets will be available by the fellowship hall or you can e-mail Cindy. We hope to see you there!

E.A.T. Night Is Here!!!



The August E.A.T. night will be at Old Chicago on N. Neil St. on **Monday, August 13, 5-8pm!**

Old Chicago is giving back **20%** of our purchases! Bring in the flyer to make sure that 20% of the proceeds will be donated to St. John Lutheran School.

Don't forget to get your Old Chicago Gift Cards from Ram Rebate. Help the school by eating at Old Chicago and earn money for your tuition too!

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The men of the congregation are invited the second Thursday of each month to Original Pancake House for food, fellowship, devotion and prayers led by Pastor Caithamer. Please join us this month on Thursday, August 9th, at 7:00am.



On Sunday, August 26, we will be having a church wide Rally Day Celebration. During the Sunday School/Bible Class hour we will be meeting in the gym to learn about the activities

that will be happening at our church this academic year. There will be opportunities to learn about Bible Classes, Youth Activities, Sunday School Classes, Choirs, Faith and Family Nights and happenings at the school. Watch the bulletin for more information. Please plan on attending.

Church Picnic

The Board of Parish Education is planning the annual church picnic on Sunday, August 26 after the late service. We will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and/or brats, plates and silverware. We are asking everyone to bring a side dish or dessert to share, lawn chairs or blankets to sit on and any lawn games you may have to play. We will have some games for the children. Please sign-up on the bulletin board by Wednesday, August 22, so we can have enough food for everyone.



The Fellowship Board will meet August 7th, at 6:00pm. On August 12, during the coffee fellowship, we will serve fresh fruit, pastries, donuts, etc. to welcome and honor our Principal, Day School, Mid-Week and Sunday School teachers. Come to meet them. We have a fantastic group of women on the Fellowship Board. Those serving are: Jan, Donna, Linda, Janet, Alice, Letha, Donna, Ronda, Julia, Cassandra, Marlene.

From the Finance Board

In an effort to keep the members of St. John informed about the financial condition of the Church we are including information about our current financial situation. The Collapsed Income and Expense report on the next page shows the amount of income and expenses for the year to date. In the printed bulletin, is a report showing the quantity of envelope giving for the month of Jun 2018.

May God continue to bless all the members of St. John! Finance Board

Church Office hours will be 10:00am to 2:00pm thru Aug 31.

School Office hours will be 8:00am to 11:00am thru Aug 16.



Let Us Pray



For Peace and Comfort: Mark & Letha and family at the death of Letha's brother Tom , Bobbie-friend of Rick & Ronda -at the death of her son

Hospitalized: Tom , Esther

For Healing and Recovery: Michael -son of Karen, Pat, Joe, Jim, Norm, Jan, Judy, Cindy-daughter in law of Bob & Joan, Judy-sister of Larry, Dan-brother of Bonnie , Bill -son in law of Dave & Donna, Lois, Ellie, Bruce, Rachel -niece of Judy , Cathy-sister of Millie, Dale -brother in law of Ellie , Rachel -niece of Judy, Stephen-son of Ken, Merv, John, Todd-grandson of Harold, Tom

For Successful Treatments: Dan -father of Beth, Philip-son of Starley, Jeanette, Joan, Nancy, Maxine

For our Military: Nick, Zachary, Mitchell, Taylor, Andy, Brandon, Heath, Suzzanna, Ben, Allyson

For our Missionaries: Pastor Randrianasolo Dembiniana Havanjanakary and the Madagascar Lutheran Seminary, Pastor Magnus Bengston and Lielsalaca Lutheran Church in Latvia, Pastor Obot Ite and the Lutheran Mission in Kingston, Jamaica

FIRST SEMESTER CHAPEL OFFERINGS



Chapel offerings will go toward the CID Campus Ministries. We believe it is very important to provide spiritual care for students in college. All universities and colleges in our Central Illinois

District have a volunteer contact campus pastor from a nearby LCMS congregation. Four state universities (UI, ISU, EIU, & WIU) have a special facility and a full-time campus ministry for our students and others (including inter-national students). These campus ministries provide important spiritual care at a very important time in the life of our young people. Many of our St. John Alumni are active in campus ministries.

Chapel Offering for the 1st Wednesday of each month will be food items for the St. John Food Pantry.

Back to School Picnic

Friday, August 24 from 5:30-7:00pm

All St. John school and church families are invited to attend the Back to School Picnic! The picnic will be held in the west parking lot, weather permitting. Come and celebrate the start of the new school year and join in fellowship with the teachers, staff, and other school and church families! Details on the potluck style picnic will be announced later. See you there!



Summer office hours are 8:00am -11:00am.

*The school office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, August 6-7.

Regular office hours of 7:45-3:30 will resume on Friday, August 17.

School Office Summer Contact Info.

Ram Rebate Gift Cards

Purchase gift cards for hundreds of stores and restaurants through Ram Rebate and a percentage will go towards your tuition or a school or church account of your choice. Stop by the school office or visit www.shopwithscrip.com for details.



In Stock cards are available during school office hours.

Order dates for 2018-2019 are on the school calendar.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR JULY



Sundays	8:00	Comm	10:45	Comm
Jul 1	136	122	127	103
Jul 8	147	139	118	98
Jul 15	171	140	117	105
Jul 22	148	121	116	91
Jul 29				

Wednesdays 7:15 Comm

Jul 11	n/a	n/a
Jul 18	18	17
Jul 25	17	17

Meet Ancella Wednesday, August 8 here at St. John!

Join us for a truly unique opportunity to meet and interact with Ancella, ministry leader of Lutheran Hour Ministries-Jamaica! Come and experience what God is doing through LHM in Jamaica as Ancella shares personal stories of how the Gospel is making an impact on peoples' lives! Join us for dessert at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall, with Ancella's Presentation to follow.

The Annual St. John Lutheran Box Top Baseball Contest is Back!!!

The Cubs vs. Cards Box Top Contest kicks off on August 20, 2018. Bring in Box Tops to help your favorite baseball team score "runs" in the game! Each of the 9 weeks will represent an "inning" of the game. The score will be announced at the end of each "inning". Gather up all those Box Tops you've collected this summer and place them in either the Cubs or Cardinals Box Top container in the school office.

Go Cubs!!!



Go Cards!!!



School Calendar



Music Notes



The Gift of Time

One of the hymns we sang recently talked about how, before time was, God is. Music is sound (pitch) expressed over time (rhythm). Without time, there could be no music! When you next pause to give thanks to God for his innumerable blessings in creation, thank Him for the gift of time, without which we could not praise Him through music. Thank Him as well for the gift of sound, which gives us voice with which to speak His name and sing His praise.

Our next “Hymn Sing Prelude Sunday” will be on **August 12**. Thanks to those of you who have shared their favorite old and new hymns with me.

Thank you to Lois, Randy, and Sarah for offering their instrumental talents and enhancing our worship together. All instrumentalists are welcome to bring your instrument and play on Sunday or Wednesday (either prepare a solo selection or just come play along on the hymns.) I'll be happy to provide parts if you desire.

The Summer marches on (speaking of time), and it is not too early to mark your calendars for the resumption of our Adult choirs, which will start up again the week of September 4. As of now, our schedule will remain the same as before-

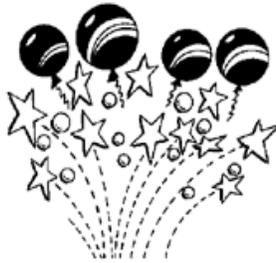
Alleluia Ringers (Handbells)	Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Men's Choir	Thursdays 6:00 – 6:45 pm
Mixed Choir	Thursdays 6:45 – 7:30 pm

Among my summer reading is a fascinating book entitled *Baroque Piety: Religion, Society, and Music in Leipzig, 1650–1750*, by Tanya Kavorkian. It discusses the Pietist movement that flourished during this era, as well as Lutheran worship and society in the town where Johann Sebastian Bach lived and worked during the last 25 years of his life. Among the many ongoing issues of the time that continue to resonate with our worship lives today are the questions of new hymnody (banned by the town council for a time but nonetheless always evolving); and the acceptable styles of music for worship (could and should music that incorporated dance rhythms or operatic influences be appropriate?) The more things change, the more they remain the same!

Soli Deo Gloria! Keith Williams

August Birthdays

- 1 Jan, Janice, Eric
- 2 Jenny, Kathy, Barbara,
Jackie, Lynn, Brandi
- 3 Rowan, Lucas
- 4 Brian, Jordan
- 5 Jennifer, Kinsey
- 6 Cyrenus, Tami, Jansin
- 7 Brian, Riley, Sue
- 8 Gretchen, Margaret, Alex
- 9 Matt, Mitchell , Phyllis,
Evalyn
- 10 Herb, Diann
- 11 Richard, Letha
- 12 Lorene, Chip, Tricia, Benjamin, Ronda, Joe
- 13 Alyssa, Avis
- 14 Thomas, Eleanor, Taylor, Cynthia
- 15 Marc, Janet, Shelby, Eunice
- 16 Kai, Elijah, Bill, Robin, Kate, Megan, Henry
- 17 Lisa Donna
- 18 Julie Lorelei , Marissa Cory, Donna
- 19 Sharon, Kyle, Karina, Elliott, Beverly
- 20 Eve, Charlotte, Paige, Roger, Bud
- 21 Aubrey, Ann, Rita, Marlene
- 22 Andrea, Claire, Tom
- 23 Kyle, Nick, Robin
- 24 Kailyn, Lois, Lavina
- 25 Maggie, Alan, Clayton, Rich
- 26 Devven
- 27 Karen, Jakob
- 28 Joshua
- 29 Ali Jo , Michael , Samantha, Lisa



August Anniversaries

- 1 Terry & Janet (48)
- 2 Kevin & Susan (21); Don & Nancy (43)
- 3 David & Eileen (44); Todd & Sara (33)
- 5 Daryl & Chris (23); Paulos & Sina (9)
- 6 Jack & Julie (30); Tim & Katie (7)
- 7 Jeff & Kim (25); Chuck & Phyllis (36); David & Amy (14)
- 9 John & Charlene (43)
- 10 George & Jeanette (55)
- 11 Steve & Jean (34)
- 13 Blake & Karen (30)
- 14 Neil & Traci (14); Stephen & Jennifer (8)
- 15 Bob & Alice (70)
- 21 James & Lorene (47)
- 23 Roger & Sherryl (49)
- 25 Tom & Pam (28); Brad & Jackie (28);
Gail & Beverly (61)
- 26 Greg & Carol (46)
- 28 Jonathan & Megan (8)
- 30 Brad & Chris (21)



PLEASE notify the church office (359-1123) if your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect. Unfortunately, we don't have 100% of our members' birthdays & anniversaries on file. Letting us know about omissions or corrections is a great way to help us complete & correct our records.

AUGUST

2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Devotions & Hymn-sing at Amber Glen on the 12th & 26th at 2:30pm</i>	<i>Church Office 359-1123 School Office 359-1714</i>	<i>Pastor Caithamer's day off: Fridays</i>	1 6:00 Summer Book Club 7:15 Holy Communion	2 12:30 Widow's Group	3	4 4:00 Stoll/Donoho Wedding
5 11th Sun after Pentecost 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	6 <i>Church Office closed for floor maintenance School Office closed for meetings</i>	7 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Fellowship Board, Trustees 6:30 School Board <i>School Office closed for meetings</i>	8 6:00 Jamaica Presentation 7:15 Holy Communion	9 7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:00 Evangelism 6:00 LL-3rd Summer Playdate	10	11 Blanck/Stamborg Wedding
12 12th Sun after Pentecost 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	13 5:00 E.A.T. @ Old Chicago (til 8) 6:00 Finance Board	14 6:00 Elders 6:00 Back to School Night	15 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Summer Book Club 7:15 Holy Communion	16 <i>First day of School K-8</i>	17 6:00 LL See the Room	18
19 13th Sun after Pentecost 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	20	21 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Council	22 6:00 Summer Book Club 7:15 Holy Communion	23 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	24 5:30 Back to School Picnic	25 9:00 Sunday School Teacher Mtg. Brazinski/Black Wedding
26 14th Sun after Pentecost Rally Day 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Rally Day Celebration 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Church Picnic	27	28 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Parish Ed 6:30 Stewardship 7:00 Youth Group	29 6:00 Summer Book Club 7:15 Holy Communion	30	31	

July 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2018						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						