

THE ST. JOHN NEWS

August 2020

Think about These Things True; Honorable; Just; Pure; Lovely; Commendable; Excellence

What is “truth”? What is “good”? What is “true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellence”? Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, it has been said. We are taught by the world that everyone has their own truth. Who gets to determine what is good and right and true? With so many different people, there will be many different answers. So, how can Paul say, “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Philippians 4:8)?

Speaking to a Christian audience, Paul understands that his hearers will know what these good qualities are because of God’s Holy Word. God alone establishes what is truly good and right and true and excellent. When God created all things, as written in Genesis 1, he declared that all that he had made was good and very good. We cannot know exactly what a “very good” creation looked like, but we know it must have been perfect, as God is perfect.

God has made it possible for humanity throughout history to understand what is good and right and true and pure. One hundred percent equals wholeness and perfection. Anything less is not perfect, is not whole. We recognize beauty, not by what we have made, but by what God has made. By looking at God’s natural creation, we develop our understanding of beauty, seeing all of the colors and forms and structures that he has made.

Because God is good, and because he has revealed to us what is good and right and true, we can be confident in knowing such things. However, because of sin in this world, our own selfish desires and attitudes, we must be reminded to think about the truly good things of this world, as Paul reminds the Philippian Christians. Naturally, we should not desire that which is evil, dishonorable, unjust, impure, unholy, ugly, uncommendable, pathetic.

In the waters of Holy Baptism, you and I were made God’s new creation. New life in Christ Jesus was given to us. That new life gives us faith to believe in Jesus, to believe his Holy Word, and to believe that there are such things that are worth thinking about and striving for. As God’s people, yearning for the perfect world to come, we are liberated from the punishment our sin deserves and we are free to pursue what is good and right and true. And, we are blessed to use the God-given talents and abilities that we possess to fulfill our vocations, to highlight and emphasize the virtuous things of this life, as God would have us do.

These Godly virtues of truth, honor, justice, purity, beauty, and excellence are all worth pursuing, not for the sake of salvation, but because you and I already have that salvation in Jesus. The wholesome things we strive for in this life are a foretaste of the truly perfect virtues and gifts we will enjoy for all of eternity. We give thanks to God for beautiful artwork, wondrous music, magnificent physical structures, good health and well-being, and all other things that our gracious God has declared to be “good.”

And, you will likely find, that when you “think about such things,” and strive for such things, your joy in Christ will be built up, your hope in the world still to come will overflow, and the struggles of this sinful world will truly pale in comparison with the glories still to be revealed to us! (Romans 8:18). For the greatest good of all is the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In him is our life and salvation, our reason to hope, the image of what is declared to be good by our good God. To him be all that is good, right, and true, for he alone is worthy of all praise, honor, and worship, now and forevermore.

In the joys of Christ, the one who is true and honorable and lovely and excellent, and in his service,

Pastor Caithamer

Let Us Pray

For Peace and Comfort: Bruce and family at the death of wife Eleanor

For Healing and Recovery: John, Lee, Tom, Linda, Jan, Deb-sister of Pam, Opal, Hendricks-grandson of Dan & Joanie, Maria, Merv, Brett -cousin of the Kindts', Jessica -granddaughter of Bob & Joan, Jacob -great grandson of Bob & Joan, Joan-mother of Bill, Judy -mother of Rochelle, Rebecca -daughter of Marvin & Esther, Roy -father of Anne, Dan-brother of Bonnie, Todd -grandson of Harold

For Successful Treatments: Kendra (school parent). Earl, Jayne, Linda, Roxy, Jeanette, Joan, Nancy

For our Military: Roberto, Adam, Joshua, Nick, Zachary, Taylor, Andy, Brandon, Ben, Allyson



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

Updating the College Board

The Evangelism Board is in the process of updating the display of our current college students. We would like to display a picture of them with their name, the college they are attending, their major, and their year in school. You can email a picture and the information to Faith We would like the information by the end of September. This board is a great way to keep our congregation members informed and remember our college students.

Church Directory

Our registration site is open. Go to the church website, <https://www.stjohn-lcms.org/>, and click on the link. It will direct you to the registration site. You can set the appointment. We will have stations set up after the church services to help with registration if needed. The dates of the photo sessions are August 4, 5, 18, 19, 20, 31 and September 1. The session times are 2pm -9pm. If you have questions contact Faith

If you bring a food item for our food pantry to your photo session, you will receive a coupon towards the cost of any photos you choose to purchase.



St. John Golf Outing

U of I Golf Course
Sat., September 26th

More information, including registration forms
will be available in August.

LWML is collecting School Supplies for Lutheran World Relief.

Please place the LWR School Kit items in the bag in the box in the coatroom. School supplies are on sale, now is a great time to purchase for the school kits. Please return school supplies before October 19, 2020 (packing date).



The following items in each LWR School Kit:

- 4 - 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- 1 - 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- 1 - pencil sharpener
- 1 - blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- 5 - unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- 5 - black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- 1 - box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 - 2½" eraser

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.

All items should be new and in good condition.

Sign Up for Church Services: Please contact the church office 359-1123 between the hours of 10am and 2pm, Monday through Friday, to sign up for Sunday's services. You can also sign up anytime by emailing Pastor revcaithamer-at-stjohn-lcms.org or call. Thank you to those who have been signing up. It does make the task of preparing for the Lord's Supper easier and in allowing enough space for everyone in the sanctuary. We do know that circumstances do not always allow for everyone to sign up ahead of time, so we will still welcome those who may come otherwise unannounced.

Church Directory Photo Dates and Registration:

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Email Addresses – Pastor Caithamer has compiled a list of members' email addresses so he can communicate with the congregation. If you are not receiving these email communications, please call the church office with your email address so we can add you to the list.

Fellowship Committee Needs Help - Because of many fellowship members still sheltering at home, our committee is in need of some new members who are out and about and attending church. We have started to serve coffee after the 8 am service and have added donuts and iced tea to the fellowship time. We need at least 2 people to prepare and serve each Sunday. If you have ever wanted to learn how to use the industrial coffee makers - now is your chance. Men are welcome and we'll pair any newbie with a current fellowship member. It could be a lot of fun to participate as a couple. Please call Julia to volunteer.

More information about reserving booth space and other details coming soon. Contact the school office with any questions.



**OUR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC
WILL BE ON AUGUST 23.**



August Music Notes



My prayer for our congregation is that music continues to be a means of hope and comfort as we move through these extraordinary times. More than ever before, I find the texts of hymns running through my mind as a beacon of light and source of strength. We have a priceless treasure from God in our hymnody, and I am thankful every day for the hymn writers, past and present, who continue to nourish us in faith through this wondrous blessing. Here is a stanza that has spoken to me of late:

Entrust your days and burdens to God's most loving hand; He cares for you while ruling the sky, the sea, the land. For He who guides the tempests along their thunderous ways will find for you a pathway and guide you all your days.

The text is by the great hymn writer Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676), from whose pen we have 17 of the hymns in our hymnal. The tune for this mighty text is a modern one by Stephen Johnson, who contributed four tunes to our Lutheran Service Book. He is the co-founder of Liturgy Solutions, a fine resource for Lutheran church musicians

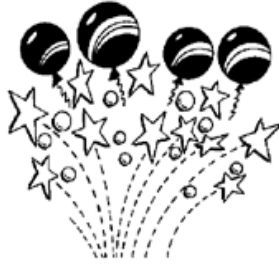
A significant source of hymn tunes were the English and Scottish Psalter tunes, one of which was published in Edinburgh in 1615. Originally all the texts were metrical settings of the Psalms, ut as time went on, additional scriptural references were drawn upon. The text for "God moves in a mysterious way" takes its inspritaion from Romans and Jeremiah, and includes the following stanza:

You fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds you so miuch dread are big with mercy and will break in blessings on your head.

Soli Deo Gloria, Keith

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
- 14 Thomas, 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, Titus, Elliott, Beverly
- 20 Eve, Charlotte, Paige, Roger
- 21 Sylvia, Beth, Logan
- 22 Aubrey, Ann, Marlene
- 23 Andrea, Claire, Tom
- 24 Kyle, Nick, Robin
- 25 Kailyn, Lois, Lavina
- 26 Maggie, Alan, Clayton, Rich
- 27 Devven, Lucas
- 28 Karen, Jakob
- 29 Joshua
- 30 Ali Jo, Michael, Samantha, Lisa



August Anniversaries

- 1 Terry & Janet (50)
- 2 Kevin & Susan (23); Don & Nancy (45)
- 3 Todd & Sara (35)
- 4 Gabriel & Hannah (2)
- 5 Daryl & Chris (25); Paulos & Sina (11)
- 6 Jack & Julie (32); Tim & Katie (9)
- 7 Jeff & Kim (27); Chuck & Phyllis (38); David & Amy (16)
- 9 John & Charlene (45)
- 10 George & Jeanette (57)
- 11 Steve & Jean (36)
- 13 Blake & Karen (32)
- 14 Neil & Traci (16); Stephen & Jennifer (10)
- 21 James & Lorene (49)
- 23 Roger & Sherryl (51)
- 25 Tom & Pam (30); Brad & Jackie (30); Gail & Beverly (63)
- 26 Greg & Carol (48)
- 28 Jonathan & Megan (10)
- 30 Brad & Chris (23)



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

If there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:8

2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																		
<i>Church Office 359-1123</i>	<i>School Office 359-1714</i>	<i>Pastor Caithamer's day off: Fridays</i>				1																																																																																																		
2 <i>9th Sun after Pentecost</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class 10:45 Holy Communion	3	4 6:00 Fellowship Board, Trustees, Evangelism Board 6:30 School Board	5 7:15 Holy Communion	6	7	8																																																																																																		
<i>Pastor Caithamer on vacation</i>																																																																																																								
9 <i>10th Sun after Pentecost</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class 10:45 Holy Communion	10 4:30 Finance Board	11 6:00 Elders	12 10:00 Adult Bible Class 7:15 Holy Communion	13 7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast	14	15																																																																																																		
16 <i>11th Sun after Pentecost</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class 10:45 Holy Communion	17	18 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Council	19 <i>1st day of School</i> 7:15 Holy Communion	20	21	22																																																																																																		
23 <i>12th Sun after Pentecost</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Rally Day 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Church Picnic	24 <i>1st Day of LL</i> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	25 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Parish Ed 7:00 Youth Board	26 5:45 Midweek School 7:15 Holy Communion	27	28	29																																																																																																		
30 <i>13th Sun after Pentecost</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	31				<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">July 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	July 2020							S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	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	31		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">September 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	September 2020							S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	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			
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