

# THE ST. JOHN NEWS

## August 2021

### A Call to Arms...Catechetically Speaking

Did you know that there is a section of hymns in our hymnal—*Lutheran Service Book*—that has this title: *The Church Militant*? In that section you have hymns such as: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (LSB 656/657); *The Son of God Goes Forth to War* (LSB 661); *Onward, Christian Soldiers* (LSB 662); *Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray* (LSB 663); *Fight the Good Fight* (LSB 664); and *Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You* (LSB 668).

With the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord as our sure foundation, and with an ever-present emphasis in the Church on grace, forgiveness, and peace, why do you think such a section in the hymnal exists? While we certainly pray that God would grant us a peaceable life, we must pray for this because it does not happen easily in this broken and sinful world. Consider this breakdown of a typical week in your life:

168 total hours in one week

112 of those hours are spent awake (assuming 8 hours of sleep every night)

7 of those hours are spent in worship and devotional time

(assuming 1 hour is spent every day)

105 waking hours of your regular week are spent in non-worship and non-devotional activities, or about 6.3% of your time.

What are the rest of your waking hours spent absorbing? Not all of it is detrimental to your spirituality and faith, such as time with your family, working hard at your job, spending time with your friends, and enjoying healthy hobbies. Intermixed in all of these things, however, and even into our worship and devotional times, are distractions that seek to sabotage our faith, not support it. Behind all of this is the devil and his demons, “seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). In talking of putting on the whole armor of God, Paul gives the reason for this in Ephesians 6: “That you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:11–12).

You and I as Christians are not like Switzerland in the world. We cannot pretend to be neutral and aloof from the things of this world because we are the sole target of the enemy. The devil has been defeated by Christ Jesus. His eternal destination is set. But he is not yet bound to the pit of hell. He continues to roam this earth, taking on various forms and deceiving the people of God in a plethora of ways. Satan wants to take as many people down with him as he can. With unbelievers already in his grip, he continues to set his sights on you and me.

None of this is meant to cause any undue fear in the hearts of God’s people, no more so than cautioning a young child away from a nearby street. Danger is present, so fear is good, but it is not meant to be debilitating. And the burden for your salvation, or the sustaining of it, does not rest on your shoulders. Your forgiveness, life, and salvation have all been won by Christ. He has given them freely to you in Baptism. And he graciously provides you ample opportunity to feed that faith and sustain it. You only need to avail yourself of these opportunities, and such a desire to do so is a result of God’s working in you through the Holy Spirit.

What we watch on TV and on our personal devices has an effect on us. What we listen to impacts us every day, from music to podcasts to the news. What we hear from our friends and family and coworkers shapes our views on this world. There is no need to avoid these things outright. God is not calling you, his people, into lives like those of monks and nuns and others who distance themselves from the world. What our Lord does desire is for Christ Jesus and him crucified to be the filter through which all things in our lives are seen. What Jesus has done for us should shape our views on this world. The things of this world should never influence and shape our views on Jesus and what he has done for us. “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2).

#### ***Opportunities to Learn and Grow in the Faith!!***

With all of this said, we have arrived at the time of the year when we are drawn back to an emphasis on our education in the faith. The new school year begins soon as does our Sunday school year. Rally Day is August 22, where we recommit ourselves and our children to the study of God’s Word. Parents and all adults, let your children and the youth around you see you study the Word of God, pray, and attend worship and Bible class! We learn so much from watching others and find our inspiration from those who are closest to us.

You have an opportunity coming up to learn some ideas on how you can be ready to share your Christian faith with others at our evangelism workshop entitled "Everyone His Witness." This event will take place on Saturday, August 21 in our fellowship hall. We will watch video segments that will guide us in these tips for sharing our faith and then have opportunity to discuss this information. Every situation to share the Gospel is an exciting one, but it is also accompanied by nervousness and some fear. This is completely normal, but nothing that the Holy Spirit cannot overcome!

And, in our Sunday morning Bible class, we will read through a book called *The Fire and the Staff* (which was intended to be covered this past summer). This book will help to reintroduce you to the reasons and defense for what we believe as Lutherans and how understanding the teachings of the Lutheran faith can make sharing the Gospel easier and more effective.

### ***In Conclusion***

The whole armor of God is yours, given to you freely in Holy Baptism (Ephesians 6:10–20; Romans 6:1–11). And our Savior gives you his Word to remind you that "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, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:14–15). And, allow these words from *LSB 668* to reside in your heart:

Rise! To arms! With prayer employ you,  
O Christians, lest the foe destroy you;  
For Satan has designed your fall.  
Wield God's Word, the weapon glorious;  
Against all foes be thus victorious,  
For God protects you from them all.  
Fear not the hordes of hell,  
Here is Emmanuel. Hail the Savior!  
The strong foes yield To Christ, our shield,  
And we, the victors, hold the field.

The peace of Christ is yours, for he has given you the victory forever!

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Caithamer

### ***Let Us Pray***

***For Peace & Comfort:*** Derek and family at the death of mother Leslie, Ken and family at the death of wife Karen, the family of Margaret following her death

***Following Surgery:*** Brian, Lingle -granddaughter of Bob & Joan

***For Healing and Recovery:*** Barb, Joyce, Karen, Rev. Michael Ruhlrig, Rick, Susan, Cynthia, Sherry, Gilbert, Larry, Teresa-godchild of Bob & Joan, Lilly, Barbara-family friend of Bob & Joan, Mailyynn -granddaughter of Rick and Rita, Karla, Aidan, Whitney-wife of Ellie grandson, Barbara-friend of the congregation, John, Tom, Hendricks-grandson of Dan & Joanie, Maria, Merv, Brett -cousin of the Kindts', Judy -mother of Rochelle, Rebecca -daughter of Marvin & Esther, Roy -father of Anne, Dan-brother of Bonnie, Todd -grandson of Harold

***For Successful Treatments:*** Luke, Kendra (school parent), Cari (school parent), Nicole (school parent) Earl, Linda, Jeanette, Joan, Nancy

***For our Military:*** Adam, Nick, Taylor, Andy, Zachary, Brandon

***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





# August Music Notes



Johann Sebastian Bach, the “Fifth Evangelist,” remains the foremost among Lutheran musicians. His music continues to inspire and teach today. Bach said “The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul.”

The eminent scholar Robin Leaver wrote a monograph *J. S. Bach as Preacher: His Passions and Music in Worship* that was published by CPH in 1984, from which the following is an excerpt:

*The relationship between theology and music is at the foundation of Biblical theology. At the beginning of time there was the song of creation, which "the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy" (Job 38:7), and at the end of time there is to be the song of the new creation, when the redeemed will sing "in a loud voice ... 'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!'" (Revelation 5:12). When God speaks to the redeemed, it is with the sound of a trumpet. At Sinai it was heard when God revealed His law to the people of the old covenant (Exodus 19: 13, 16, 19), and at Patmos it is heard again when God reveals His purpose to the people of the new covenant (Revelation 1:10; Revelation 4:1). The original Israel took possession of its inheritance with the sound of the trumpet (Joshua 6), and the new Israel, the elect of God, will be called to its inheritance by a similar sound (Matthew 24:31). Therefore it is with the sound of the trumpet that men are called to repentance on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 25:9) and called to judgment on the day of resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:52, 1 Thessalonians 4:16). And under both covenants the worship of the people of God is expressed in musical form (e.g. Exodus 15; Psalm 33:3; Psalm 40:3; Psalm 96:1; Isaiah 42:10; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Revelation 14:3; etc.).<sup>2</sup>*

Come, join the Eternal Song! Plans for the resumption of the Alleluia Ringers (Handbells) and our Mixed and Men’s Choirs are being made for September. We also hope to once again be including instrumentalists in our worship. Please be in touch with me if you are interested.

*Soli Deo Gloria, Keith*



### E.A.T Nights 2021-2022

E.A.T (Eat Around Town) Nights are back!

Join us at Culver’s on S. Neil St. on Monday, August 9! Culver’s is giving back a portion of all sales from 5-8pm. No flyer is needed – spread the word to your friends and family! We will be providing Food Runners. Come out and see who will be delivering your food!

**Church Picnic**—The annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> immediately following the late service on the west side of the church. We will follow the same format as last year with participants bringing their own lunch. Drinks, ice cream, and a variety of toppings will be provided. We have numerous picnic tables but please bring some lawn chairs if you are able. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall.

### Save The Date—

We will be hosting a Trunk-or -Treat on Sunday, October 24. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for more information.

LWML is collecting School Supplies this year for Orphan Grain Train instead of LWR. The school supplies are sent where needed around the world, but school supplies do not need to be packed in back packs. Supplies needed: crayons (24pack), new pens, new pencils, loose-leaf paper and notebooks, spiral notebooks, glue sticks, construction paper, rulers, scissors, washable markers (8-10 pack), and new coloring books. Copies of list are in the coatroom. Please put your School Supplies in the LWML box in the coatroom. Great time to get with the school supply sales going. Questions contact: Linda. Thanks for helping Children here and around the world. St. John LWML.



### October 16, 2021

Vendor Application Forms for vendors are available in the school office and on the narthex table. Contact the school office with any questions.

### Everyone His Witness—

Evangelism Board is hosting a workshop called Everyone His Witness on Saturday, August 21. We will have a welcome/coffee time starting at 8:30am and the workshop starting at 9. There will be a light lunch provided. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

**Custodial Help** – The church is looking for an individual who may be willing to serve in helping with the custodial duties for weddings, funerals and special events that may take place when our staff is unavailable (i.e. weekends). Pay would be \$125 per event. Please contact Rick for more information.

## 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, Dee, 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,
- 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 (51)
- 2 Kevin & Susan (24); Don & Nancy (46)
- 3 Todd & Sara (36)
- 4 Gabriel & Hannah (3)
- 5 Daryl & Chris (26); Paulos Stifanos & Sina (12)
- 6 Jack & Julie (33); Tim & Katie (10)
- 7 Jeff & Kim (28); Chuck & Phyllis (39); David & Amy (17)
- 9 John & Charlene (46)
- 10 George & Jeanette (58)
- 11 Steve & Jean (37)
- 13 Blake & Karen (33)
- 14 Neil & Traci (17); Stephen & Jennifer (11)
- 15 Garnet & Connie (40), Ray & Jane (1)
- 21 James & Lorene (50)
- 23 Roger & Sherryl (52)
- 25 Tom & Pam (31); Brad & Jackie (31); Gail & Beverly (64)
- 26 Greg & Carol (49)
- 28 Jonathan & Megan (11)
- 30 Brad & Chris (24)



*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

*For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 1 John 5:4*

# 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																		
<b>1</b> 10th Sun after Pentecost 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:15 Fellowship Board 6:00 Trustees, Evangelism Board 6:30 School Board	<b>4</b> 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>																																																																																																		
<b>8</b> 11th Sun after Pentecost 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	<b>9</b> 5-8 E.A.T. at Culvers 5:30 Finance Board	<b>10</b> 6:00 Elders	<b>11</b> 10:00 Adult Bible Class 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>12</b> 7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>																																																																																																		
<b>15</b> 12th Sun after Pentecost 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Council	<b>18</b> 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>19</b> 1st day of School K-8	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 Evangelism Workshop																																																																																																		
<b>22</b> 13th Sun after Pentecost 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Rally Day 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Church Picnic	<b>23</b> 1st Day of LL 3&5 Day  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>24</b> 1st Day of LL 2 Day 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Parish Ed 7:00 Youth Board	<b>25</b> 5:45 Midweek School 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>																																																																																																		
<b>29</b> 14th Sun after Pentecost 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 Adult Bible Class	Church Office 359-1123  School Office 359-1714	Pastor Caithamer's day off: Fridays	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">July 2021</th> <th colspan="7">September 2021</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <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></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	July 2021							September 2021							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3					1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	26	27	28	29	30		
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