

# THE ST. JOHN NEWS

August 2024

## What Is the Value of Going to Church? Lutherans and the Third Commandment

Have you lost all interest in going to church? Do you feel like you may be starting down that path? If you answered “no” to both of these questions, then this brief article will hopefully help in keeping your answer that way. If your answer was “yes” to those questions, then let this serve as a gentle reminder that church on Sunday (or Wednesday) is the place where God promises to meet you with his gifts of forgiveness, eternal life, and salvation. Yes, you have already received those gifts in Baptism. But, you and I continue to sin every day and are in constant need of reminders of those gifts and continued reception of those gifts. In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther ends his “Christian Questions with Their Answers” section by addressing the concern that a Christian may not feel a need for the Lord’s Supper. Those questions apply, in general, to attending the Divine Service as well, the only place a Christian can receive that sacred meal.

Here are those questions of Luther:

18. *Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?* That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

19. *What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?* First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

20. *But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?* To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5. Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

On the seventh day of creation, God rested from his work (Genesis 2:1–3). He who is infinite in power and might does not ever lose any energy and does not ever get tired. His resting was for our benefit. You and I are built to work, with God giving us many vocations to fulfill every day (Ephesians 2:10). There is also a need for rest. Just as our bodies need sleep and rest from work, so our souls need rest from this sinful world (Matthew 11:28). That idea of resting on a sabbath day was set in stone when God gave the Third Commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy” (Exodus 20:8–11).

Keeping something holy or sacred means that we need to hold it in high regard. That does take a conscious effort. Even an expensive gold ring can be neglected and forgotten. But God has enshrined the gift of rest in the Third Commandment. Jesus explained that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath (Mark 2:27). We are not to worship the Sabbath, but use it to our advantage.

Luther explains: “We are to fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and God’s Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.” The Third Commandment remains in place for us as the people of God to go to where the Word of God is preached and where we can rightly learn it. That place God has created and preserved as the church. Luther’s explanation of the Third Commandment also means that we should spend time hearing and studying the Word of God every day, praying everyday, and meditating on Christ’s work for our salvation everyday.

What is the proper care and treatment of an expensive gold ring? It is to be cleaned up and shined up for its beauty to be rightly seen and enjoyed. Even more so the Third Commandment. We keep it holy by prioritizing the service of the church where God’s grace is freely given. We hold the Word in high regard when we read the Scriptures and are taught the Word by those trained so to teach.

The Hebrew people were first given a command regarding the Sabbath when they were on their way to Sinai after being set free from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 16). God provided them bread from heaven every day, except on the Sabbath. They were not to work on the Sabbath then, so they could collect a double portion on the day before. Any preparation of the bread must be done before the Sabbath began. This command was given by God as a way for his redeemed people to show their willing obedience toward him.

Attending church and Bible class is a similar opportunity for us, to show our willing obedience to God for all that he has done for us. And, because we are receiving the gift of the Gospel in Word and Sacrament, going to church is no tedious, pointless task. It is not mindless obedience for the sake of obedience. This is God’s gift to you and me for the assurance of our salvation in the midst of an ever-declining and corrupting world, ravaged by evil and sin and death.

God our heavenly Father longs for us to come to him for shelter and protection in this world. Jesus said, in Matthew 11, “Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.” The Lord Jesus is our rest, our Sabbath. In him is plentiful redemption, for in him is the forgiveness of all our sin. Jesus Christ is the one who has died on the cross for us all. He has paid for our salvation with his own blood. He did it all out of love for you, for all the world (John 3:16). Christ Jesus considered it a joy to endure the cross and suffer its shame (Hebrews 12:2) because he knew it would bring you life and salvation and grant you rest in his kingdom forever.

What a blessing it is for us to gather together, to hear God’s Word, and to call upon him in prayer and praise for all that he has done for us. Truly, such gathering is a foretaste of the fellowship and communion we will share forever (Revelation 4–5), even as the saints who have gone before us are gathered around Christ and his throne even now (Revelation 7:9).


You are all constantly in my prayers for renewed and sustained vigor in the one, true faith. Please pray the same for me and for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus.

The Lord bless you and keep you in his grace through his holy Word, held sacred by his Church to life everlasting.

In Christ’s service,  
Pastor Caithamer

*Let Us Pray*

<p><b>For Peace, Hope, and Comfort:</b> the family and friends of Nancy at her death, Norm &amp; Karla and family at the death of Karla’s brother Jim</p> <p><b>For Healing and Recovery:</b> Terry, Merv, Dave -uncle of Sara and Ryan , Danny-brother of Fawn, Cindy, Mark, Robin, Patty, Kaylianna -great granddaughter of Bob &amp; Joan, Karla, Charlene, Brian, Teresa - godchild of Bob &amp; Joan, Barbara-family friend of Bob &amp; Joan, John, Hendricks-grandson of Dan &amp; Joanie, Maria, Roy - father of Anne, Todd -grandson of Harold, Brett -cousin of the Kindts’</p>	<p><b>For Successful Treatments:</b> Dan, Nancy, Barb, Luke, Earl, Linda, Joan, Jeanette</p> <p><b>For our Military:</b> Nick D, Nick F, Andy, Brandon, Zachary, David</p> <p><b>For our Missionaries:</b> 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</p>
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Key Fobs have arrived. Please plan to come to the church office between 10am-2pm to switch your old fob to a new one. Please bring any keys that you have in your possession so that we can update our records. If you can’t make it during summer hours, let the office know and we will plan for a different time. Any questions, please call or email the church office. The old fobs will stop working on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Security System – Our new security system, cameras, and fobs have been completed. Just a reminder that the alarm is now able to be set, so if you are the last one in the building, please do so. If you are uncomfortable with the alarm or would like a refresher on how to set it, please see the church office. Current fobs will work with the new hardware on the doors until you receive your new fob. The new readers take a little longer to register, so please hold your fob up to the reader for about one second and wait for the light to flash green. Contact the church office with any questions regarding our new system. Thank you.

<p><b>LWML</b> is collecting School Supplies this year for Orphan Grain Train. 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 (24-pack), new pens, new pencils, loose-leaf paper and notebooks, spiral notebooks, glue sticks, construction paper, rulers, scissors, washable markers (8-10 pack), new coloring books and backpacks. Copies of the list are in the coatroom. Please put your School Supplies in the LWML box in the coatroom by October 21, 2024. Great time to get school supplies with the school supply sales going. Questions contact: Donna E or Jan. Thanks for helping children here and around the world.</p> <p>St. John LWML</p>	<p>Church Picnic August 18th - Picnic will follow the late service. Choices include hot dogs, hamburgers, and brats. Sign up for choice of meat, and to bring either side dish or dessert. We look forward to seeing you there.</p> <hr/> <p><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS— RALLY DAY 8/18/24</b></p> <p>Come join us for Rally Day as we kick off our Sunday School Year! Christian education is so important for children and adults of all ages! We want to encourage everyone to be involved in Bible study and prayer on a regular basis. What better way for parents to show their children the importance of being involved in Bible study, than by participating themselves! On Sunday, August 18th starting at 9:30am, everyone will meet in the Fellowship Hall for various activities. Students will proceed from there to their classrooms, while adults will remain for Bible class.</p>
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## August Music Notes



Plans are underway for Fall events and the return in September of regular rehearsals and the presence of our Choirs (both singers, ringers, and instrumentalists).

Sunday, August 11	Instrumentalists
Sunday, August 18	Brass
(Rally Day)	10:45 Men's Choir – 10:00 warmup
Sunday, August 25	Hymn Sing Prelude

We are planning a Hymn Sing as the Prelude at both the 8:00 and 10:45 services on August 25. If you have a favorite hymn from our current or former hymnals, please let Keith know and we will try to include it.

Thanks to Eunice Carmichael for reminding me of these:

Dentist's Hymn	"Crown Him with many Crowns"
Weatherman's Hymn	"There Shall be Showers of Blessing"
Contractor's Hymn	"The Church's One Foundation"
Tailor's Hymn	"Holy, Holy, Holy"
Golfer's Hymn	"There is a Green Hill Far Away"
Politician's Hymn	"Standing On the Promises"
Optometrist's Hymn	"Open My Eyes That I May See"
Gossip's Hymn	"Pass It On"
Electrician's Hymn	"Send The Light"

*Soli Deo Gloria,*

Keith



*First Day of School - K-8: Wednesday, August 14 – 11:30am dismissal*

*First Day of School - LL 3 & 5 Day classes: Monday, August 19*

*First Day of School - LL 2 Day classes: Tuesday, August 20*

### E.A.T Nights Have Returned!

The August E.A.T. Night will be at Culver's on Neil St on Monday, August 19, 5-8pm!

Culver's on S. Neil St. Champaign is donating a portion of sales back to the St. John Lutheran School PTF. Dine-In, carry out, and drive thru are all included. Flyers are available on the narthex table and on the school website [www.stjohnls.com](http://www.stjohnls.com). Please present the flyer at time of purchase or at time of pick up, if online order.

Thank you for your continued support of these events.



If you know a family interested in learning more about the school for 2024-2025, please encourage them to contact the school office, 217-359-1714. The application process for new families has begun.



### **Orphan Grain Train +**

#### CHAPEL OFFERING for 2024-2025

This year, St. John Lutheran School will support Orphan Grain train with their weekly chapel offering. School families will also partner with LWML by donating school supplies as their first quarter outreach project.

Vendor applications are available on the school website and from the school office.

Help us spread the word by sharing the attached pictures on your social media!

Contact the school office with any questions.  
Thank you.



Follow us on Facebook!

"Like" our posts and share with your friends and family!

<https://www.facebook.com/St.JohnLS>



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 Jan, Mary, Janice, Eric                                  | 23 Andrea, Claire, Tom             |
| 2 Jenny, Kathy, Barbara, Mason, Jackie, Evie, Lynn, Brandi | 24 Kyle, Nick, Robin               |
| 3 Rowan, Lucas   | 25 Chris, Kailyn, Lavina           |
| 4 Brian, Sophia, Jordan                                    | 26 Maggie, Alan, Clayton           |
| 5 Renee, Jennifer, Kinsey                                  | 27 Devven, Lucas                   |
| 6 Cyrenus, Tami, Jansin                                    | 28 Karen, Jakob                    |
| 7 Brian, Riley, Sue  | 29 Jeff                            |
| 8 Nic, Gretchen, Margaret, Alex                            | 30 Joshua, Sam                     |
| 9 Matt, Mitchell, Phyllis, Evalyn                          | 31 Ali Jo, Michael, Samantha, Lisa |
| 10 Herb, Diann   |                                    |
| 11 Richard, Letha  |                                    |
| 12 Lorene, Tricia, Benjamin, Ronda, Joe                    |                                    |
| 13 Leo, Alyssa   |                                    |
| 14 Thomas, Taylor, Cynthia                                 |                                    |
| 15 Jackson, 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 Charlotte, Paige, Roger, Lainey                         |                                    |
| 21 Sylvia, Beth, Logan                                     |                                    |
| 22 Aubrey, Ann   |                                    |

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- |  |   |       |
|--|---|-------|
| 1 Terry & Janet (54)                             | 14 Stephen & Jennifer (14)                    |       |
| 2 Don & Nancy (49)                               | 15 Garnet & Connie (43);                      | Ray & |
| 3 Todd & Sara (39)                               | Janet (4)                                     |       |
| 5 Daryl & Chris (29); Paulos & Sina (15)         | 21 James & Lorene (53)                        |       |
| 6 Jack & Julie (36); Tim &                       | 23 Roger & Sherryl (55)                       |       |
| Katie (13)                                       | 25 Tom & Pam (34); Brad & Jackie (34); Greg & |       |
| 7 Jeff & Kim (31); Chuck & Phyllis (42); David & | Carol (52)                                    |       |
| Amy (20)   | 28 Jonathan & Megan (14)                      |       |
| 9 John & Charlene (49)                           | 30 Brad & Chris (27)                          |       |
| 10 George & Jeanette (61)                        |   |       |
| 11 Steve & Jean (40)                             |   |       |

### 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.



I was glad when they said to me,  
 “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”  
 Psalm 122:1

# 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																				
<i>Church Office</i> 359-1123  <i>School Office</i> 359-1714	<i>Pastor Caithamer's</i> <i>day off: Fridays</i>  <i>Summer Hours:</i> <i>Church Office</i> 10:00am-2:00pm	<div>July 2024</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	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				<div>September 2024</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	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						<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
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