

THE ST. JOHN NEWS

November 2024

All the Company of Heaven Never Alone

The holiday season is almost upon us. For the church, that season unofficially begins with the celebration of the Reformation on October 31st. The very next day, to kick off the month of November, is All Saints' Day. The early church had begun the practice of remembering important saints on the anniversary of their deaths. So as to not overlook the importance of all the saints, the church added the celebration of All Saints' Day, which came to be observed on November 1st.

All Saints' Day is most-commonly celebrated today as the day in which we remember all of the Christians who have died before us. On the Sunday we observe All Saints' Day (this year it will be on November 3rd), we follow the tradition of announcing the names of our church members who have died in the past year. This is a great way to give thanks and praise to our God for giving these saints faith through Baptism and the Lord's Supper and ushering them into the Church Triumphant through the gateway of death.

In the spirit of All Saints' Day, it is appropriate and beneficial to be reminded of the comfort we have as the Church Militant here on earth. We all have known the pain of losing a dear loved one. Life is never the same after they are gone. We are tempted by the devil to think that life cannot possibly be as good anymore. We can be so overwhelmed by grief and sadness that life loses its luster and its joys are forgotten. While certainly understanding of our plight, the Lord does not want us to dwell in such sadness. After all, we have some very important truths given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ to temper our sadness with true joy.

One of those truths that is sadly overlooked and highly underemphasized is that which is stated in Hebrews 12. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." The great cloud of witnesses in Hebrews 12 no doubt includes all those Old Testament saints from Hebrews 11. They all believed the same thing we do, that God's promised Savior would come and be the sacrifice for our sin.

Included in that great cloud of witnesses are all of the other saints who are not so mentioned, but are in the presence of Christ all the same. They still worship the Lord Jesus Christ as we do. Faith in the one Lord Jesus Christ is what still unites us. We are given a glimpse of this in Revelation 7:9-17, where John speaks of seeing the innumerable host gathered around the throne of the Lamb, singing praise to him. As Christ Jesus is with us always, they are now with him always. Where the head is so is the body. Together, through the waters of Baptism, we are all members of the body of Christ. Where Christ is, there they are, and where Christ is, there we are too.

It is no accident that the words leading us into the singing of the Sanctus are these: "Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify [Jesus'] glorious name, evermore praising you..." When we sing the words of the great *Sanctus*, we are joining with the holy angels and all the saints who have gone before us. Even more so, the saints of heaven join with us in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Rev. Kenneth Wieting, in his book *The Blessings of Weekly Communion*, explains it in this way:

Christ and His saints are one spiritual body, a vital union even as the human body is joined with the head. This spiritual body includes the saints who have already departed this life in the faith. Christ is eternal, and His body cannot be divided by our limits of time... We are divided only by the narrow stream of death. We do not eat in isolation but as part of the church across space and time... When the Lord, the head of the church, comes into our midst, He does not do so in isolation from His body. Those who have died in Christ are always with Him, even when He comes to serve us (p. 200).

What comfort this great concept brings! The closest we can be to our loved ones who have departed in the faith is at the Lord's Supper! When we are at the rail, we join with all the saints, for they are where Christ is.

As Christians in this world, you are never alone. The Lord Jesus is always with you, as he promised. You are also surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, those who have confessed the same faith that you have, which has been given to you in Baptism. While you gather with your brothers and sisters in Christ each week at the communion rail, you are also joined by your brothers and sisters in Christ who are with him in his kingdom. That is truly a foretaste of the great feast to come, a beautiful glimpse of the Last Day, when Christ returns in glory and all the saints are raised from the dead and reunited forever!

The celebration of All Saints' Day is truly a remarkable one! I hope and pray you are able to join us for this great festival day, this year on November 3rd, and that you are blessed to remember that you are not alone, especially when you gather at the Lord's table with all of the Lord's blessed redeemed ones!

Yet she on earth has union With God the Three in One,
And mystic, sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
—LSB 644. *The Church's One Foundation*. Stanza 5.

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!
—LSB 677. *For All the Saints*. Stanza 4.

And please do read through the rest of the words from these great hymns listed above; they never disappoint!

Together in Christ, with all the saints,
Pastor Caithamer

Many Thanks!!

What a blessing and honor it has been to be your pastor at St. John for the last 15 years and to share the Gospel of Jesus together! I give thanks to God every day for calling me here through you and for granting my family such a loving and supportive place to live and grow with his great people. I especially wish to thank you for the recent luncheon you held for me on October 13. Thank you to the fellowship board for organizing the event, to all who contributed food, and to those who spoke such kind words. It is always a great joy when we get to eat and have fellowship together! Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated! Thank you again for making St. John such a great place to be. In Christ's love,
Pastor Caithamer.

Let Us Pray

For Strength, Hope, and Peace: Melvin -father of Greg

Following Surgery: Kyle

For Healing and Recovery: Jennifer , Barbara, Mark, Donna, Herb, David, Karla , Jon, Mary Jane, Kim, Terry, Merv, Danny - brother of Fawn, Mark, Robin, Patty, Kaylianna-great granddaughter of Bob & Joan, Charlene, Brian, Teresa - godchild of Bob & Joan, Barbara-family friend of Bob & Joan, John, Hendricks-grandson of Joanie, Maria, Roy - father of Anne , Todd - grandson of Harold, Brett -cousin of the Kindts'

For Successful Treatments: Nancy, Barb, Earl, Linda, Joan, Jeanette

For our Military: Nick, Nick, Andy, Brandon, Zachary, David

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



Trunk or Treat Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped in various ways for the Trunk or Treat event this year. Whether you donated candy and treats, or were one of the 16 cars that decorated and handed out treats, you were a blessing to not only our church and school, but also the community. We were also blessed with amazing weather to be able to hold the event outside. Thanks be to God.

Sunday School Christmas Program – Music practices for the Christmas Program will begin November 3rd, during opening. The students will then go to their classrooms for a normal Sunday School class. The program will take place on December 15th during the Sunday School hour.

LWML thanks you for your generous support in providing school supplies for the Orphan Grain Train. All donated items have been boxed and sent forward for distribution. Every gift counts towards making life a little easier for a child in school who is in need of such items. Many thanks for your help in supporting kids around the world with LWML.

Decorating the Church for Christmas — Please join us on Saturday, November 30th, at 9:00am to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. We welcome any and all volunteers!

Family Advent Night— All St. John Families are invited to begin their Christmas preparations by joining us for Family Advent Night on Friday, December 1st, from 5:30-7:30pm. We will have a pizza dinner, crafts for kids, devotions, singing of Christmas carols and cookie decorating. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall.

Save the Date for the LWML Cookie Walk on December 7th, 2024 from 8am-noon. There will be a signup sheet to donate cookies closer to the event.

Thank You for your generous contributions of \$1,294.35 to aid the victims of Hurricane Helene. These funds were given on Oct. 24th to Orphan Grain Train to be disbursed. I'm so glad we're ready to help people in need. Linda K - LWML



November Music Notes



Happy 500th Anniversary!

In the early years of the Reformation, Martin Luther expressed a desire that people should sing songs in their own language during worship. Since German hymns were lacking, he encouraged poets, clergy, and even a shoemaker to write new songs to fill the need. His encouragement began to bear fruit when the “Achtliederbuch” (“eight-hymn book”), officially titled *Etlich Cristlich Lieder* (Some Christian Hymns) was published in 1524. This first Lutheran hymnal celebrates its 500th anniversary this year.

Most of the eight hymns have fallen out of use, but three remain in *Lutheran Service Book*:

1. “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice,” LSB 556 (*Nun freut euch, lieben Christen g'mein*), by Martin Luther
2. “Salvation unto Us Has Come,” LSB 555 (*Es ist das Heil uns kommen her*), by Paul Speratus
3. “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee,” LSB 607 (*Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir*), by Martin Luther

On 11.10, 11.17 and 11.24 I will be playing organ pieces based on these three hymns.

Handbells will continue rehearsals Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.

Rehearsals this month will take place 10.30, 11.13 & 11.20

Handbells will ring on Sundays 11.24 & 12.15

Adult choir will continue rehearsals on Sundays at 10:00 am.

Adult choir rehearses on Sundays at 10:00.

Choir will sing on Sundays 11.10, 11.24, 12.8, 12.22

Many thanks to everyone who sang, rang and played instruments for Reformation Sunday. It was a grand and glorious celebration and we are blessed with the talents of many in our congregation.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Keith

Veterans Day Assembly

Our St. John Lutheran School and Little Lamb students will be honoring veterans at an assembly at 10 a.m. on Monday, November 11 in the gymnasium.



We welcome veterans and church and school families to attend as we thank veterans for their service to our country!

Light refreshments will be available for all veterans and guests.

November E.A.T. Night @ Monical's
Monday, November 11th, All Day

Enjoy lunch, dinner or both at Monical's on Mattis Ave! Bring in the flyer or show an electronic copy to make sure that 20% of the proceeds will be donated to St. John Lutheran School. Get a Monical's Gift Card from Ram Rebate from the school office.

Flyers are available on the narthex table and on the school website www.stjohnls.com. Thank you for your continued support of these events.



THANKSGIVING BREAK

School will be closed Monday, November 25 to Friday, November 29 in observance of Thanksgiving. We wish you a wonderful time with family and friends giving thanks to God for His many blessings!

Thank you for supporting our middle school fundraising efforts for the class trip (spring 2026).

Dough-livery date is Wednesday, November 13th.



Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success for another year! There were many wonderful vendors to shop from, delicious goodies at the bake sale to purchase, and several interesting cars to see!



You won't want to miss *Symbols of Salvation*, the Day School Christmas Service on Tuesday, December, 10 at 6:30p.m. in the gymnasium. Students will tell of Jesus' birth with joyful hearts, songs, and readings. See you there!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Finn
- 2 Colton , Sam, Byron, Gary , Hannah
- 3 Dean, Jason, Robert, Jeremy
- 4 CJ
- 5 Christian, Jacob
- 6 Clayton, Sarah
- 7 Joyce, J.C.
- 8 Tim, Everett
- 9 Sarah , Presley, Lon, Henos
- 10 Larry
- 11 Karen, Butch
- 12 Jonathan
- 13 Mesmer, Ceirra
- 14 Tucker, Liesl
- 15 Barb, Rita, Fawn
- 16 Gabryan, Chuck
- 17 Billy
- 18 Erica

- 19 Brian
- 20 Matthew, Mike
- 21 Kelley, Emma, Kim, Michael, Jim
- 22 Brad, Gregory
- 23 Cheryl, John, Barry, Renae, Lynne
- 24 Susie
- 25 Jordan, Gilbert
- 26 Jennifer, Nicci
- 27 David
- 28 Gary, Mark, Crystal
- 29 Addisyn, Hannah
- 30 Todd, Jeanine, Jacob, Mark, Andrew

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Ben & Wendy (21)
- 4 Byron & Lydia (68); Herb & Virginia (68)
- 5 Alex & Sue (31)
- 13 Darrel & Linda (40)
- 18 Mike & Jill (18)
- 19 Heath & Sarah Carr (25); Jim & Karen Kresca (41)

- 21 John & Nancy (32)
- 25 Bill & Diann (63); Joe & Alicia (18)
- 28 Troy & Brandi (26)
- 30 Mark & Jennifer (39)

Central Illinois District (CID) Bible Bowl

Saturday, November 23, 10 a.m. St. John Gym

The Bible Bowl is a competition between teams from area Lutheran schools and provides the platform for our students to demonstrate their biblical knowledge and abilities.

Select St. John students qualified to represent the school this year.

Please pray this event will be enriching for all and bring glory to God!

Cross Country

The Running Rams had a great season! Several athletes set personal records. Two athletes, Patrick and Reagan , qualified for the LSA National Meet at Concordia University, Mequon, WI. Reagan ran a great race with a time of 14.22.52. Patrick finished in 7th place overall and set a new school record of 11:25.47. Way to go, Rams!

Boys-Coed Basketball Home Games
Friday Nov. 15 - vs. Smart Christian Academy, 6 p.m.
 *First Home Game

Hat and Mitten Tree



The school will be collecting new hats, mittens, gloves and scarves (any size), and the congregation is invited to participate! Items will be collected Monday, November 18 through Friday, December 13. Donations may be placed on the tree by the school office or on the tree in the Fellowship Hall (church office if dropping off before Nov. 30th). All items will be donated to local charities.



Save the Date!

Friday, February 22,
2025

More information will be
announce soon.

NOVEMBER

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...
Hebrews 12:1a, 2a

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																				
Church Office 359-1123	School Office 359-1714	Pastor Caithamer's day off: Fridays	<div>October 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></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>31</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>December 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>31</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	31					1 	2
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