

The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

Most people think of God as a prude. They imagine God is easily offended by matters pertaining to sexuality and nudity. But this doesn't make any sense. For how could God be against the very things He created? God declared that everyone and everything He created was good after He created it. For God made the human body, and it was good. He made us male and female, and it was good. **And God is the One who invented sex and gave us the gift of our human sexuality, and it was good.** God created sexual attraction between men and women. God invented the physical pleasure that comes from having sex. **The Lord created the sexual act to be enjoyed, but always and only within the context of marriage.** Sexual intimacy is a gift from God reserved specifically for marriage. God intended the sex act to strengthen the bond of marriage, and as the way that people would reproduce by having children. Within marriage God sanctifies sex as something that husbands and wives can enjoy together with a clear conscience. It's the one activity that they share with no other person except for their own spouse. **It's only when sex is severed from its connection to marriage and from its purpose of creating the family that it becomes an offensive to God.**

Like so many of God's gifts, sinners have deviated from God's original plan regarding sex, and have distorted the gift of human sexuality. Sinners have twisted sex and turned it into something dirty. Sex within marriage was intended to be a beautiful and wonderful expression of love between a husband and his wife. It was intended by God to have the potential of giving the married couple children as the fruit of their love. **However sexual activity becomes a serious sin when the reason for having sex is only for passion and pleasure, divorced from the holy covenant of marriage.** This is why the commandment is phrased, "You shall not commit adultery." God isn't saying that the only way you can sin sexually is to cheat on your spouse. **What God is saying is that any sexual activity or sexual contact -- even sexual thoughts -- outside of the covenant of marriage is a sin, and not what God intends for Christians.** The words of our Lord Jesus corroborate this: "You have heard it said: 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks on a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" Matthew 5:27-28).

movies now more than ever show steamy sexual encounters with graphic nudity. And television and cable are rapidly moving in the same direction. **The lifestyles of the Hollywood celebrities that people admire have made living together outside of marriage, and having children without being married seem very chic.** Movie stars have made living together an attractive alternative to traditional marriage and in many cases culturally preferred. The Hollywood elite have indoctrinated our generation to believe homosexuality is normal instead of deviant, and academia and political action groups have also strongly lobbied for the acceptance of homosexual lifestyles, vilifying any who stand in their way. **They have made it virtually impossible for anyone to question homosexual behavior, much less to challenge it.** For if you speak out against any of this based on Scripture, you are decried as a homophobic bigot and worse.

Corporate advertizing has its own agenda for constantly putting lust-provoking images in our faces, because it knows that sex sells. And so we are bombarded with sexual images in magazines and on television in the interest of selling more products to more consumers in what has become a sex crazed culture. **This constant exposure to perfect air brushed semi-nude women in seductive poses (e.g. Victoria's Secret), has greatly degraded women and has distorted our culture's understanding of human sexuality even further.** If you lived through the sexual revolution of the sixties and seventies then you know how much "the pill" made sex something recreational and separated sex from the covenant of marriage, and of having babies. Abortion had the same effect of making women more sexually active. Hugh Hefner's Playboy magazine and clubs, and Larry Flint's Hustler magazine cashed in on promoting the mystic of a lifestyle filled with casual and uncommitted sex. **These magazines may have liberated Americans sexually as they claimed to, but they also put people into bondage to sin, pornography, broken marriages, and unwanted pregnancies.** They took our culture further down the path of societal acceptance of sexual immorality.

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Christians becoming more and more like this world in its disobedience to God, is revealed by the very high percentage of Christian couples who are living together prior to marriage without any qualms of conscience. Also, Christian opinions about homosexuality now enjoy virtually the same acceptance within the church as it does within society.

Listen to word of the Lord regarding the sixth commandment found in First Corinthians. God warns Christians saying, **“Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexual offenders ... will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).** And again: “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral” (Hebrews 13:4). **If sexual immorality can keep you out of the kingdom of God then these are obviously very dangerous behaviors that Christians have began to casually engage in.** For this reason Christians need to read their Bibles much more closely so that they can learn the misuse of sexuality which God forbids in the sixth commandment.

The Bible for example forbids divorce with the exception that God gives us the right to divorce a spouse who has been sexually unfaithful. Our Lord says, “Anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery” (Matthew 19:9). The apostle speaking on behalf of the Lord also allows a person to remarry when their previous spouse abandons the marriage and leaves. “If the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound [by the marriage vows] in such circumstances” (1 Corinthians 7:15). **The sixth commandment not only forbids sexual intercourse but all other forms of sexual intimacy and touching between unmarried persons. Among the list of sins which offend God and transgress this commandment would be rape, incest, sexual child abuse, and pornography.** As Christians we are warned to flee all such sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18). **For saving faith cannot remain for very long in a heart where such sins flourish.** Even sexually explicit humor, sexual language, sexual innuendo, or the expressions of sexual lust must be avoided by Christians, for as the apostle says, “Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving” (Ephesians 5:3-4).

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These above views expressed regarding divorce, reserving sex for marriage, and of regarding homosexuality as sexual defiance sound antiquated to many and hate filled to most. This is the fault of churches and pastors who have failed to teach the whole counsel of God for far too long. Churches have become so fixated on numerical growth and making their budgets that they dare not offend those who sit in their pews, and put money into the offering plate. **Pastors fear confrontation and even persecution from the more worldly-minded from among their own church membership and so most evade these controversial topics.** And so Churches have remained largely silent on these issues of human sexuality while the world has not. **Culture assumptions and secular education have long been proselytizing our members and teaching our children to accept the prevailing view that none of these behaviors is wrong.** And that only challenging these views is wrong.

When many Christians hear the pastor say that divorce is a sin, or that homosexuality is a sin they get angry at the pastor. It’s called wanting to kill the messenger. **Since most people are prone to subjectivity they get even angrier if they or any of their loved ones have ever participated in such sins.** But we are not the ones who are condemning this behavior. We are merely expressing God’s clearly stated Word and will on these subjects. Many people get angry because they hear us saying more than we are actually saying. **We are saying that these sexual behaviors are sins. But many people mistakenly hear us say that these are sins that cannot ever be forgiven.** We must call them sins because no Christian should ever minimize sin or rationalize sins away. But these are not unforgiveable sins, for the blood of Jesus, God’s Son, cleanses us from every sin. **All of the sins that we’ve mentioned are sins that can exclude us from heaven if we let them dominate our lives, but they don’t have to.** For when we come into possession of God’s forgiveness in Christ our old ways pass away and we become new creatures in Christ with a clear conscience and a clean slate to begin life again and again. In Christ we are forgiven, and we regain our innocence. No matter how sexually immoral we have been in the past, God can declare us virginal and sexually pure again in Christ. **But this doesn’t happen by denying that our old behaviors were sexually immoral. This only occurs when we confess past sins and then live forgiven in the newness of Christ.**

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Hospitalized: Barbara

Following surgery: Mary , Charlene

Healing and Recovery: Doris,
Betty , Bob , Robin , Jean -mother of Bonnie

For Favorable Test Results and Healing: Larry

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Military: John s , , Brandon, Keidi , Christopher ,
Taylor , Suzzanna , Robert

Missionaries: Pastor David Rakotonirina and the
Madagascar Lutheran Seminary, Pastor Magnus
Bengston and Lielsalaca Lutheran Church in Latvia,
Pastor Obot Ite and the Lutheran Mission in Kingston,
Jamaica



fellowship. Please join us this month on
Thursday, October 13th, at 6:30am.



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Any donations are most appreciated. There will be a box in
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Baked goods should be brought close to the day of the
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all** please come and support our efforts so we may contribute
to needy causes in Christ's church and our community.

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Christ, and motivated by Grace; to reflect Christ's love and share His Gospel with all.

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Giving compared to 2010***

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\$ 969,683.94	\$ 939,899.99

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other purposes and school tuition.





"Preparing for the
birth of Jesus"

More details to follow.....

October Events



October 9
Various Times

LYF Groups
Check with your LYF Guard for the specifics.

October 14

Deadline to sign up for Jr. High Lock-in

Sunday, October 16

Deadline to sign up for Hardy's Reindeer Ranch

Sunday, October 23
1:30 – 4:30 pm

LYF Fest: Hardy's Reindeer Ranch and Corn Maze
Come dressed for the outdoors and enjoy a fun afternoon exploring an intricate corn maze with your friends! Cost is \$6, and you may want to bring a little extra cash for a snack.

Central Illinois District Junior High Lock-in

November 11 – 12, 2011, 9:00 pm – 6:00 am

Bloomington, IL

Cost: \$25

(Late registrations pay \$40)

Pick up information outside the church office and register by October 14!

Adults are needed to drive and go along as chaperones! We need one adult for every seven youth that go.

Please Mr Block if you are interested!

The students of St. John Lutheran School (K-8) will participate in the American Heart Association's **Jump Rope for Heart** promotion during the upcoming month of October. The **Jump Rope for Heart** and its counterpart **Hoops for Heart** is a nationwide program designed to educate our youth to lead healthy lives and to raise funds for research in reducing heart disease. Heart disease is the number one killer in America today. Many American children will be challenged with obesity and serious heart complications in the future.

We ask that you might consider supporting our children and this organization during the month of October. Students will be presented lessons by the teachers as well as in physical education classes. They will also be seeking funds to support the mission of the American Heart Association. You may donate to any St. John Lutheran School student or to the school office directly. Checks may be made payable to the American Heart Association.

Our School Goal is \$5000

Deadline for donations is Wednesday, October 26. The American Heart Association along with the staff and students of St. John Lutheran School are very thankful for your efforts and support. Donations are tax deductible. Please visit with Mr Yagow if you have any questions or need more information.

Hoops for Heart

BLUE RIBBON BOOK FAIR COMING SOON!

We will be hosting a Blue Ribbon Book Fair during Parent Teacher Conferences on Thursday, October 27th, from 11:00am -12pm and 2pm- 7:00pm and Friday, October 28th from 8:00am until 11am. Please stop by and check out the selection of books available. The profits from the book fair will go to purchasing books for our classroom teachers.

Encouraging everyone to read!
Mrs. Block

Thursday: Our Kindergarten students were introduced to their new library and are looking forward to coming back each week. During the summer, friends of our library donated great books. Thank you Cyndy, Taylor, Matthew, the Hagan family and ! We also had an anonymous donation that I'd like to tell you about. One afternoon, after I had been working in the library, I left the building and there was a huge box of books sitting next to my car! Marvelous! Thank you to all of our donors! The Birthday Book Club program is being offered again this year. If you would like to surprise your grandchild, or grandchildren, with a book that would have their name and birthday imprinted in it and presented to them at a Chapel service, please take a look at the selection of books in the display case next to the school office. There is a short form in the case also. The cost per book is only \$10. After the child has enjoyed their special book, they would return it to their teacher and the book will be placed in our library for their fellow students to enjoy also. **I am looking for volunteers to help our students and myself checking out books on Thursday afternoons. If you are available one Thursday a month, from 12:15 - 3:00, please let me know. This volunteer opportunity would count towards your Family Involvement hours. Come and join the fun!**

Keep reading!
Ronda Craig, librarian



Box Top Contest- Save your Box Tops and help the Cubs or Cardinals earn runs. The first 9 weeks of school will each represent an inning of our game. The score for the 4th inning is Cubs 1081 and Cards 331. The total is Cubs 3879 and Cards 2726. After 9 weeks/innings, we'll announce the winner of the game, and the teachers who are fans of the losing team will have to wear the winning team's shirt. You can bring your Box Tops to the church office, take them to the school office or give them to a teacher. Please make sure they are marked Cubs or Cards.

- 1 Dan , Marissa , Rob , Beverly
- 2 Tom , Lauren , Pam
- 3 Lance , Jake , Brandon
- 4 Rebecca , Jean , Pam , Connor
- 5 Diane , Rachel , Kathy
- 6 Tracy , Gail Ali
- 7 Alexis , Rex , Caroline , Norman , Leslie , John , Terra , Ashley , Spenser h , Walter , Jay
- 8 Keith , Earl , Nathaniel , Duane , Mike , Delores , Sandy
- 9 Traci , Risse , Ben , Jim
- 10 Will , Nicholas , Gabriel , David , Kyle , Julie , Nick
- 11 Larry , Alex
- 12 Terry
- 13 Roger , Bailey
- 14 Jessica , Wally , Anthea , Dot
- 15 Ruby , Stacey , Norma , Linda
- 16 Geneice , Wendy , Ethan
- 17 Alexa

- 18 Curt , Jeff
- 19 Madigan , Claire , Jordan
- 20 Linda , Richard
- 28 Patty , Vince
- 29 Karen , Joe Trent S , Melissa
- 30 Pat , Ronda , Florence , Leo F
- 31 Sue , Robert , Eli , Dorothy

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Rev. Jeff & Katie (6)
- 2 Laran & Erin (1)
- 4 John & Lisa (8)
- 6 Lee & Judy (38)
- 7 Rene & Nicole (11)
- 8 Rev. Don & Mar Ehlers (51); John & Cheryl (45)
- 9 Martin & Beth (17); Al & Sherleen (1)
- 10 Curtis & Lori (30); Gerald & Linda (38)
- 11 Ryan & Amy (8); David & Kristina (14)
- 14 Arnold & Myla (39)
- 15 Andy & Cindy (45)
- 16 Tony & Jennifer (18)
- 17 David & Lisa (13); Mel & Lola (58); Roger & Norma (13)
- 18 Curt & Paula (25)
- 20 Jeff & Suzanne (12)
- 21 Raymond & Judy (44); Mike & Maxine (22)
- 24 Steve & Nancee (30); Richard & Barbara (41)
- 26 Tom & Peggy (43)
- 31 Alvin & Beverly (42)

PLEASE notify the church office (359-1123 or pmartin@stjohn-lcms.org) 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 of any correction or omissions is a great way to help us complete our records. Thank you!

ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER



Sundays	8:00	Comm	10:45	Comm
Sep 4	225	169	205	128
Sep 11	255	189	230	158
Sep 18	205	155	127	105
Sep 25	202	157	190	129

Wednesdays	7:15	Comm
Sep 7	32	21

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Like so many of God's gifts, sinners have deviated from God's original plan regarding sex, and have distorted the gift of human sexuality. Sinners have twisted sex and turned it into something dirty. Sex within marriage was intended to be a beautiful and wonderful expression of love between a husband and his wife. It was intended by God to have the potential of giving the married couple children as the fruit of their love. **However sexual activity becomes a serious sin when the reason for having sex is only for passion and pleasure, divorced from the holy covenant of marriage.** This is why the commandment is phrased, "You shall not commit adultery." God isn't saying that the only way you can sin sexually is to cheat on your spouse. **What God is saying is that any sexual activity or sexual contact -- even sexual thoughts -- outside of the covenant of marriage is a sin, and not what God intends for Christians.** The words of our Lord Jesus corroborate this: "You have heard it said: 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks on a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" Matthew 5:27-28).

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Adults are needed to drive and go along as chaperones! We need one adult for every seven youth that go.

Please Mr Block if you are interested!

The students of St. John Lutheran School (K-8) will participate in the American Heart Association's **Jump Rope for Heart** promotion during the upcoming month of October. The **Jump Rope for Heart** and its counterpart **Hoops for Heart** is a nationwide program designed to educate our youth to lead healthy lives and to raise funds for research in reducing heart disease. Heart disease is the number one killer in America today. Many American children will be challenged with obesity and serious heart complications in the future.

We ask that you might consider supporting our children and this organization during the month of October. Students will be presented lessons by the teachers as well as in physical education classes. They will also be seeking funds to support the mission of the American Heart Association. You may donate to any St. John Lutheran School student or to the school office directly. Checks may be made payable to the American Heart Association.

Our School Goal is \$5000

Deadline for donations is Wednesday, October 26. The American Heart Association along with the staff and students of St. John Lutheran School are very thankful for your efforts and support. Donations are tax deductible. Please visit with Mr Yagow if you have any questions or need more information.

Hoops for Heart

BLUE RIBBON BOOK FAIR COMING SOON!

We will be hosting a Blue Ribbon Book Fair during Parent Teacher Conferences on Thursday, October 27th, from 11:00am -12pm and 2pm- 7:00pm and Friday, October 28th from 8:00am until 11am. Please stop by and check out the selection of books available. The profits from the book fair will go to purchasing books for our classroom teachers.

Encouraging everyone to read!
Mrs. Block

Thursday: Our Kindergarten students were introduced to their new library and are looking forward to coming back each week. During the summer, friends of our library donated great books. Thank you Cyndy, Taylor, Matthew, the Hagan family and ! We also had an anonymous donation that I'd like to tell you about. One afternoon, after I had been working in the library, I left the building and there was a huge box of books sitting next to my car! Marvelous! Thank you to all of our donors! The Birthday Book Club program is being offered again this year. If you would like to surprise your grandchild, or grandchildren, with a book that would have their name and birthday imprinted in it and presented to them at a Chapel service, please take a look at the selection of books in the display case next to the school office. There is a short form in the case also. The cost per book is only \$10. After the child has enjoyed their special book, they would return it to their teacher and the book will be placed in our library for their fellow students to enjoy also. **I am looking for volunteers to help our students and myself checking out books on Thursday afternoons. If you are available one Thursday a month, from 12:15 - 3:00, please let me know. This volunteer opportunity would count towards your Family Involvement hours. Come and join the fun!**

Keep reading!
Ronda Craig, librarian



Box Top Contest- Save your Box Tops and help the Cubs or Cardinals earn runs. The first 9 weeks of school will each represent an inning of our game. The score for the 4th inning is Cubs 1081 and Cards 331. The total is Cubs 3879 and Cards 2726. After 9 weeks/innings, we'll announce the winner of the game, and the teachers who are fans of the losing team will have to wear the winning team's shirt. You can bring your Box Tops to the church office, take them to the school office or give them to a teacher. Please make sure they are marked Cubs or Cards.

- 1 Dan , Marissa , Rob , Beverly
- 2 Tom , Lauren , Pam
- 3 Lance , Jake , Brandon
- 4 Rebecca , Jean , Pam , Connor
- 5 Diane , Rachel , Kathy
- 6 Tracy , Gail Ali
- 7 Alexis , Rex , Caroline , Norman , Leslie , John , Terra , Ashley , Spenser h , Walter , Jay
- 8 Keith , Earl , Nathaniel , Duane , Mike , Delores , Sandy
- 9 Traci , Risse , Ben , Jim
- 10 Will , Nicholas , Gabriel , David , Kyle , Julie , Nick
- 11 Larry , Alex
- 12 Terry
- 13 Roger , Bailey
- 14 Jessica , Wally , Anthea , Dot
- 15 Ruby , Stacey , Norma , Linda
- 16 Geneice , Wendy , Ethan
- 17 Alexa

- 18 Curt , Jeff
- 19 Madigan , Claire , Jordan
- 20 Linda , Richard
- 28 Patty , Vince
- 29 Karen , Joe Trent S , Melissa
- 30 Pat , Ronda , Florence , Leo F
- 31 Sue , Robert , Eli , Dorothy

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Rev. Jeff & Katie (6)
- 2 Laran & Erin (1)
- 4 John & Lisa (8)
- 6 Lee & Judy (38)
- 7 Rene & Nicole (11)
- 8 Rev. Don & Mar Ehlers (51); John & Cheryl (45)
- 9 Martin & Beth (17); Al & Sherleen (1)
- 10 Curtis & Lori (30); Gerald & Linda (38)
- 11 Ryan & Amy (8); David & Kristina (14)
- 14 Arnold & Myla (39)
- 15 Andy & Cindy (45)
- 16 Tony & Jennifer (18)
- 17 David & Lisa (13); Mel & Lola (58); Roger & Norma (13)
- 18 Curt & Paula (25)
- 20 Jeff & Suzanne (12)
- 21 Raymond & Judy (44); Mike & Maxine (22)
- 24 Steve & Nancee (30); Richard & Barbara (41)
- 26 Tom & Peggy (43)
- 31 Alvin & Beverly (42)

PLEASE notify the church office (359-1123 or pmartin@stjohn-lcms.org) 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 of any correction or omissions is a great way to help us complete our records. Thank you!

ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER



Sundays	8:00	Comm	10:45	Comm
Sep 4	225	169	205	128
Sep 11	255	189	230	158
Sep 18	205	155	127	105
Sep 25	202	157	190	129

Wednesdays	7:15	Comm
Sep 7	32	21