

THE ST. JOHN NEWS

September 2021

The Fire and the Staff

A Book Study for Sunday Bible Class

Starting on September 12 of this year, our Sunday morning Bible class will shift gears for several weeks. We will set aside our direct study of the Holy Scriptures so that we can work our way through a book that will shed light on our Lutheran identity in our modern world. What will be learned in this book has the Bible as its foundation, so our presence in the Scriptures will never be lacking.

I can honestly say that this book was of great value to me in understanding better the theology of our Lutheran church and appreciating the treasures that have been handed down to us. My humble attempt to guide us through the chapters of this book will hopefully leave you with the same results.

A recent biography of Martin Luther rightly attributes our current, pluralistic religious culture to the great reformer. However, this was not Luther's intent. By challenging the power and practices of the Catholic church in his quest for the truth of the Gospel, Martin Luther inadvertently opened Pandora's box. While not Luther's purpose, God himself understands the principle found in this broken world, as he inspired St. Paul to write in 1 Corinthians 11:18-19: "For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized."

Today, there almost as many Christian denominations as there are Christians. How does Lutheranism shine forth in the midst of so many divisions within the church? How do we hold on to our understanding of the Bible and the Gospel of Jesus Christ while so many other Christians believe different things and practice the faith in different ways? Are those different beliefs and practices detrimental to the faith? Can we change our practice without it changing our doctrine?

Rev. Klemet Preus seeks to answer these questions and more in his book, *The Fire and the Staff: Lutheran Theology in Practice*. This is the book we will begin on September 12. Here is an excerpt from his introduction to the book:

Doctrine and practice are more closely related...than is often realized. Doctrine affects practice and practice affects doctrine. The two are so intimately woven together that when you change one, you will inevitably change the other, sometimes without realizing what has happened. The analogy of a shepherd is apt. A shepherd warms himself and his flock by the fire. With his staff he gently nudges the sheep toward the source of warmth. So God gives us doctrine, and through churchly practices He nudges us toward the biblical doctrine of Christ. What shepherd builds a fire that offers warmth and light then uses his staff to drive the sheep away from the fire? Wouldn't that be like a pastor who teaches the true doctrine but through faulty practice actually undermines his own teaching? Or think about a foolish shepherd who might gently guide his sheep with a good staff only to find that the fire is out. That would be akin to establishing good practices within the church but teaching faulty doctrine. (Preus. *The Fire and the Staff*. 2009. CPH. 14-15).

Do you agree with this premise? Yes or no, join us on Sunday mornings this fall to explore this concept and discover just how precious our Lutheran faith and identity is.

Get ready to dive deep into this topic and come up excited in your life as a Lutheran! Here are the chapter titles from the book, to whet your appetite:

- Light the Fire: Doctrine
- The Heat of the Fire: Justification
- The Fire Spreads: Word and Spirit
- The Fire and the Staff: Doctrine and Practice
- The Church's Staff: Worship in the Lutheran Church
- The Christian's Staff: Good Works
- The Fire Is Doused: Word and Spirit Separated
- The Staff Is Bent: The Excitement of American Christianity
- The Staff Is Broken: The Dynamism of American Christianity
- The Staff Is Lost: American Worship Ideas
- The Fire Kindled: Confessing the Faith
- The Fire Stoked: Change in the Church
- Conclusion: A Plea

Each chapter has a summary and a set of study questions. These will serve as the basis for our discussions, as we seek to complete one chapter per week. If you would like to purchase your own copy of this book for the discounted price of \$15, please let me know by emailing me at revcaithamer@stjohn-lcms.org.

I look forward to experiencing this study with you and hope you can join us for worship and Bible class throughout these fall months.

The Lord bless you and keep you in all that you do as his chosen people, elected for eternal life by his grace through Word and Sacrament.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Caithamer

Let Us Pray

For Peace & Comfort: Dawn and family at the death of husband Bill; Alice and family at the death of husband Mike; Herb & Virginia and family at the death of Herb's brother Orlando; the family of Annabell following her death; Mike & Lori and Sherri and family at the death of parents Paul & Kate

Following Surgery: Lingli -granddaughter of Bob & Joan ; Barb

For Healing and Recovery: Nancy, Dave & Donna, Eunice, Karen, Brian, Joyce, Rick, Susan, Cynthia, Larry, Teresa-godchild of Bob & Joan, Barbara-family friend of Bob & Joan, Maelynn-granddaughter of Rick and Rita, Lilly, Karla, Aidan, Whitney-wife of Ellie's grandson, Barbara -friend of the congregation, John, Tom, Hendricks -grandson of Dan & Joanie, Maria, Merv, Judy-mother of Rochelle, Rebecca -daughter of Marvin & Esther, Roy-father of Anne, Dan-brother of Bonnie, Todd -grandson of Harold, Brett -cousin of the Kindts'

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



For our Military: Adam Thompson, Nick Finke, Taylor Carmichael, Andy Carmichael, Brandon Kovell, Zachary Carr, David Carr

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

New Member Class – Sunday, September 12th will see the beginning of our next New Member Class. This class is intended for those who would like to know more about Lutheranism and are interested in becoming members of St. John. All of our current members are invited and encouraged to attend this class as a refresher course in the Lutheran faith. It also is a blessing to new members to get to meet and know current members. We will meet in the fellowship hall each Sunday at 1pm. Please email Pastor Caithamer with any questions and to let me know if you would like to attend.

Lifelight is back. Join us for The Christian's Mission, a 9-week Bible study of how God equips us to serve Him in our vocations and day-to-day relationships. You can join us Wednesday evenings at 5:45, Thursday mornings at 9:00, or Thursday evenings at 6:00. Classes start September 15th and 16th. To sign up, look for our table in the overflow or contact Neil, Matt or Donna .

Sunday School – We are looking for teachers to either co-teach every other week or for our substitute list. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity and contact Cindy with your interest. We look forward to seeing everyone.

College Board – The Evangelism Board is in the process of updating the college board with pictures of our college students. Please send pictures and information (name, school, year in school, and major) to Faith. We would like the information by September 19th. Thank you.

Thank You— Gilbert and family would like to thank you for your continued prayers and visits. It means so much to us. Short visits are welcome between 9-11, 1-4, and 6-8. Cards can be sent to:
Gilbert — see printed newsletter

LWML CID Champaign Zone Fall Rally is September 15th (Morning only) at Trinity Lutheran Church in Urbana for devotions, Bible study, speakers, and fellowship. Registration is at 9:15am and Rally starts at 9:45am. \$5.00 registration is collected at the door. Gifts of the Heart Ingathering is for "The Daily Brad Soup Kitchen, Champaign" – fresh fruit & vegetables, canned goods & non-perishable items, or cash donations. RSVP by September 5th to Faith Wetzel 701 E. Florida Ave., Urbana, IL 61801 or Linda Thiele 217-714-1221 See flyer on bulletin board.

School News from Principal Kamin:

Each school year brings its own blessings and challenges. 2021-2022 seems to be no different in that regard. We are following the health and safety requirements for mask wearing and physical distancing, trying to keep everyone safe. This brings challenges, of course, but we're also a growing school. As I write, our current enrollment is 98. We are still receiving calls about new students looking to enroll. By the time you read this message, I hope the number will be even higher than 98. God is blessing us to be a blessing to more families in our community, and we praise him for that opportunity! Our first few days of school have been busy, getting back into the swing of things, but they have been good. I'm looking forward to a great year with our kiddos!

I'm also extremely excited about our staff this year. Since we've had so many changes, here's a rundown of our classrooms: Miss Rudick is teaching Kindergarten and First grade again this year. Mrs. Mihm is teaching 2nd & 3rd grades again. Mr. Bernau is teaching 4th & 5th grades. Mrs. Stephens is teaching Middle School again. Mrs. Block is teaching reading enrichment, various language arts classes, and PE this year. Pastor is teaching 8th grade religion. Mrs. Middendorf continues to be one of our preschool teachers. Mrs. Morenz will be helping in preschool and our K-3 classrooms this year. Miss Reifsteck will be re-joining us as preschool aide and after care director. (Our after care program is growing, too!) Mrs. Reifsteck will also be continuing as one of our preschool teachers. Her aides will be Mrs. Curry and Miss Eddington. Miss Eddington will also be working in our after care. Mrs. Compton is continuing in her role as music, choir, and band teacher. Ms. Pyrz will be returning to St. John to teach art after a 10-year hiatus. We're very grateful that our amazing office and lunchroom crews have all returned this year. It's a big crew, and I'm so excited to see the skill, professionalism, and passion for the children these people bring to their roles and the love of God that flows through them to the kids. It's truly an honor to lead this team.

For those on Facebook, please check out all of the fun things (and the informative things, like EAT Nights) we share with you there. The more people who like and share our posts, the more they will show up in people's feeds. The more engagement a post receives, the more it is pushed out to others, which boosts our visibility. For example, we normally get 100-150 people who see our posts, but when I shared our opening chapel post on my own page, we were seen by over 700 people. There were also several comments and reactions on our page and my own. If you like it, love it, share it, comment, all of those actions make us more visible. I try to give the people outside our building glimpses into what we do all day. If you like it, hit the thumbs up. :) We'll be expanding our presence on other social media platforms soon, and they'll all be a little different, so keep an eye out for us! Oh, and don't forget our hashtag (aka pound sign) #StJohnRams

Chapel Offerings:



Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry is a national human-care ministry embracing the unique, calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening doors for conversation about faith and creating opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ.

Chapel Offering for the 1st Wednesday of each month will be food items for the St. John Food Pantry.



The September E.A.T. Night will be at Portillo's on N. Prospect Ave. on Monday, September 13, 4-8pm! Portillo's is giving back 20% of our purchases, so we have a great chance to raise some money for the school, enjoy delicious food, and enjoy wonderful fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ! Please bring along a Portillo's flyer (available from the church or school office) and show it when you order. This fundraiser only applies to dine-in, carry out, or drive thru purchases. If you use the drive thru, please show the flyer at the first window after ordering. Thank you for your continued support of these events!

Trunk or Treat—The Evangelism Board is hosting a Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 24 from 2:30 to 4:30. We need lots of volunteers. Please consider volunteering to hand out candy from your trunk or donating candy to help create a bag from the church. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the fellowship hall for those who will set up a trunk. Donation slips will go up at the beginning of October. If you have questions, please contact Faith



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.

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.

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.

September Birthdays

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | Hannah Fink, Chris Foste, Danielle Gharst, Terry Gharst, Melissa Leichter | Wyatt |
| 2 | Jean Niemann, Dean Riechers, Vicki VanUithoven, Jaime Watts, Judy Whittington | 18 Fischer Lilly |
| 3 | Rachael McLean, Carol Wissner | 19 Peggy Wyatt |
| 5 | Susan Brant | 20 Brooklyn Ladage, Beth Martin, Nick Wendling |
| 7 | Ray Renken | 21 Amanda Thomas, Annette LaBrecque, Olivia Bowman, Jordan Nelson, Lyle Wachtel |
| 8 | Stephanie Ames | 22 Kyleigh Dubson |
| 9 | Rebekah Bradley, John Eaton, Haston Hartman, Craig Johnson, Terry Martin, Leona Schultz | 23 Elmer Crawford, Todd Lester, Jim Mohr, Jack Winter |
| 10 | Esther Blanton, LuAnn Hansens, Norm Fisher, Stuart Johnson, Alexander O'Brian | 24 Sara McPike, Keith Williams |
| 11 | Delaney Hansens | 25 Theresa Harrell, Alice Loftus, David Ward |
| 12 | Marissa Wallace, Joanie Wheatman | 26 Alex Crawford, Blake Hubert, Cindy Schilling, Lilyana Wilder |
| 13 | Rachel Howell, Dan Martin, Donna Oestreicher | 27 David Dani, Kevin Short |
| 14 | Karen Bahler, Rochelle Funderburg, Karen Landreth, Stephen Whitehill | 28 Jessica Treakle, Jeremy Watts |
| 15 | Barbara Bonner, Benjamin Craw, Zakary Stone | 29 John Downey, Ron Warsaw |
| 16 | Mimi Donahoe, Sarah Kresca, Christina Schwalbe | 30 Nadia Beadle, Haleigh Lewis |
| 17 | Terry Cole, Tim Loftus, Damyán Shepherd, Doug | |

September Anniversaries

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1 | Brandon & Jennifer (14) | (6) |
| 2 | Kevin & Cissy (42) | 20 Kyle & Edna (35) |
| 3 | Mike & Karen (21) | 21 Chris & Linda (36) |
| 4 | Keith & Judith (45) | 24 Mark & Diane (27) |
| 5 | Jeremy & Lana (12) | 25 Mark & Letha (40); Joseph & Marissa (6) |
| 6 | Dean & Karla (35) | 29 Tryston & Stephanie (9) |
| 8 | Bryce & Chelsea (3) | |
| 9 | John & Linda (47) | |
| 11 | Terry & Robin Hinds (39) | |
| 14 | Jim & Stephanie (19); | |
| 15 | Walter & Anita (53) | |
| 18 | Rick & Rita (39); George & Karen (45); Steve & Susie (51) | |
| 19 | Bob & Joan (67); Stephen & Donna (29); Kyle & Andrea | |

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. Please help us complete our records by notifying us of any corrections or omissions. Thank you!



SEPTEMBER

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 1 Peter 2:2

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																									
<p><i>Church Office</i> 359-1123</p> <p><i>School Office</i> 359-1714</p>	<p><i>Pastor Caithamer's</i> <i>day off: Fridays</i></p>		<p>1 8:10 Chapel 5:45 Midweek School 7:15 Holy Communion</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>																																																																																																									
<p>5 <i>15th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion</p>	<p>6 <i>Labor Day</i> <i>Church & School</i> <i>closed</i></p>	<p>7 10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:15 Fellowship Board 6:00 Trustees, Evangelism 6:30 School Board</p>	<p>8 8:10 Chapel 5:45 Midweek School 7:15 Holy Communion</p>	<p>9 7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>																																																																																																									
<p>12 <i>16th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion 1:00 New Member Class</p>	<p>13 4-8 E.A.T. Night @ Portillo's 5:30 Finance Board</p>	<p>14 6:00 Elders</p>	<p>15 8:10 Chapel 10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:45 Midweek School, Lifelight 7:15 Holy Communion</p> <p>Zone Fall Rally @ Trinity, Urbana</p>	<p>16 9:00 Lifelight 6:00 Lifelight</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>																																																																																																									
<p>19 <i>17th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion 1:00 New Member Class</p>	<p>20 6:30 LMWL <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p>	<p>21 <i>Fall begins</i> 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Council</p>	<p>22 8:10 Chapel 5:45 Midweek School, Lifelight 7:15 Holy Communion</p>	<p>23 9:00 Lifelight 6:00 Lifelight</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>																																																																																																									
<p>26 <i>18th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion 1:00 New Member Class</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Parish Ed 7:00 Youth Board</p>	<p>29 8:10 Chapel 5:45 Midweek School, Lifelight 7:15 Holy Communion</p>	<p>30 9:00 Lifelight 6:00 Lifelight</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">August 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> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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> </tbody> </table>	August 2021							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">October 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> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	October 2021							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
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