

THE ST. JOHN NEWS

September 2024

The Divine Service: The Benediction
Beginning at the End

What thoughts come to your mind when you hear the words of the Benediction, the final blessing announced at the end of the service? “The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen” (Numbers 6:24–26). Each part begins with “The LORD,” so that will be addressed first, and, in connection with that, the importance of the number three in the Benediction. What it means to be blessed and kept by the LORD will follow. And, lastly, the lifting up the LORD’s countenance and the giving of his peace will conclude the study.

God gave these words first to Moses to give to Aaron to speak to the people. Aaron was Israel’s first high priest, the one called upon by God to act on his behalf in worship and to act on behalf of the people in worship. These words we know so well were given by God for Aaron to speak so that he could “bless the people of Israel” (Numbers 6:23). “Bless” would be recognized in the Hebrew as a special word spoken to a person. It would stand out and set them apart as something “holy” would be. And it all begins with God’s name, as he announced it to Moses in Exodus 3: Yahweh.

Yahweh is the word spoken to Moses by God. Moses was to go to the Hebrew people in Egypt and tell them that their God was going to rescue them. Not sure to whom he should refer, Moses is told by God, “Tell the people that ‘I AM’ has sent me to you.” God proceeds to call himself, “I am who I am,” which is a translation of the four Hebrew letters YHWH. The name of God as many now pronounce it “Yahweh” is most often written as “LORD” in all capitalized letters. Whenever we see “LORD” in our Bibles, we can translate in our minds to the name of God, which is “Yahweh.”

This is so important because it personalizes God. God has a name and he wants it used properly, as we hear him say in the Second Commandment: “You shall not misuse the name of Yahweh your God.” This is also important because of Yahweh’s intentions with these words: “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.” The idea of marking or branding or sealing is not foreign to the Bible. The Hebrew people were marked with circumcision. Christians are marked and sealed in the waters of Baptism. Hebrew boys were given their name on the day of their circumcision, the eighth day after birth. Christians’ names are clearly announced at their Baptism. And at both events, the name of Yahweh is placed upon the recipient (Colossians 3:11–14). Those who receive Yahweh’s name belong to him and he belongs to them, with a permanent bond being established by God.

In the Benediction, the words first given for Aaron to speak, the statement is broken into three lines with two units belonging to each line. The name of Yahweh begins each of the three lines. Christians can recognize this as Trinitarian, and the Hebrew people would have had an understanding of this as well. Jesus would later attach each person of the Trinity to the name of Yahweh. “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Each person of the Holy Trinity is active in the blessing of the people, as each person is active in the creation, redemption, and sanctification of the people.

As stated earlier, the act of the LORD “blessing” sets the people apart as special. “And keep you” adds to Yahweh’s act of securing for himself a people the act of protecting his people. God provides for all our needs of body and soul. He sends his holy angels to guard us and fight against the evil foe and his legion of fallen angels. Yahweh God is constantly busy keeping his people under his perfect care, a truth that gives us great comfort.

“The LORD make his face shine upon you.” As the earth needs the radiance of the sun, so God’s people need the radiance of his glory. To have God’s face shining upon us means that we have his favor, that he loves us despite our sinfulness. “And be gracious to you” reemphasizes the undeserved love of God that he gives to us because he has given us his name. Where his name is placed, there his grace shall be as well.

“The LORD lift up his countenance upon you.” The word for “countenance” in the Hebrew is the same word used before for “face.” Here, Yahweh is strengthening his claim of favoring his people, not because of anything they have done, but because of his faithfulness to those who bear his name. “And give you peace.” This is what God desires for all people. Our sin pits against God in all-out war (Ephesians 2). We cannot possibly win, and because God wants all people with him forever, he wins the war by sending his Son. Jesus Christ steps in as the new Adam, representing us all (1 Corinthians 15:20–23). He lives the perfect life in our place and then offers that life up to God as the perfect sacrifice. Jesus is crucified and dies so that we can have forgiveness. “By his wounds we are healed”, Isaiah 53 says. Jesus is the bringer of peace with God.

That is why the sign of the cross is made when those final words are spoken. Jesus spoke the words “Peace to you” to his disciples and then showed them the marks of the cross (John 20:19–21). Jesus’ death has granted peace between God and man. The Benediction that closes the Divine Service is the bookend that wraps us all up in the cross of Jesus. All the Scriptures, from beginning to end, are about Jesus and him crucified (Luke 24:27; John 20:30–31). The whole Divine Service, from beginning to end, is about Jesus and him crucified. That is the sacred name God places upon his people in the Benediction. Your whole life, then, from your Baptism until your death, is wrapped in the name of the Triune God, Yahweh, the Lord Jesus Christ.

What a powerful blessing God gives to you, his people, each and every time you hear those sacred words. You are blessed, for you belong to God, and his holy name is upon you forever.

In Christ’s service,
Pastor Caithamer

Let Us Pray

For Peace and Comfort: Andy & Susan and family at the death of Andy’s brother Rich , John & Nancy and family at the death of John’s mother, the family and friends of Luke Armstrong at his death; Joanie & family at the death of husband and father Dan

Hospitalized: Nina, Jon

For Healing and Recovery: Karla, Lois, 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 Dan & 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 D, Nick F, 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



Young Adults Group meets once or twice a month as a way for individuals between the ages of 18-40 to spend time with people of the same age. Previous outings have included going to the EAT Nights each month, having a potluck at the church, and going to various events in the community. We are busy making plans for September and beyond. If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact Sara.

LIFELIGHT is back! Join us for Luke: Part 1, a 9-week Bible study as we delve further into the Gospels. You can join us Wednesday evenings at 5:45 or Thursday mornings at 10:00. Classes start September 18 and 19. To sign up, look for our table in the overflow or contact Matt, Donna, or Bill .

Summer Sunday School Thank You

Thank You to everyone who taught Sunday School this summer. We appreciate all you did in teaching our students over the summer months. These include Katie, Don, Amanda, Deanna, Susan, Karen, and Betty.

LWML Sunday is celebrated October 6, 2024, Services. Last day to drop off in the Coat Room Orphan Grain Train School supplies is October 21. LWML meeting Tuesday, November 19th, 5:30pm in the Conference Room

September 2024 LWML CID Mission Grant #2

Deaconess Kim Bueltmann - \$10,000

Deaconess Kim Bueltmann assists congregations in Leipzig and Chemnitz, Germany, providing outreach to socio-economically disadvantaged Germans and refugee primarily from Iran and Afghanistan. She is trained to share the Gospel through a ministry of works of mercy, spiritual care and teaching the Christian faith. These funds would provide annual support need to continue her work.

LWML 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 or Jan Bundy . Thanks for helping children here and around the world. St. John LWML



September 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).

Alleluia Ringers (Handbells) will resume on Wednesdays at 6:00 in the balcony, beginning on Wednesday, September 11. We will establish our ringing schedule for the Fall.

Adult Choirs (Mixed and Men) will resume on Sundays at 10:00 in the balcony, beginning on September 8. Instrumentalists (new and returning) are always welcome.

Your voices (singers) and hands (ringers and players) add special elements to our worship together. All are welcome!

Thank you to those who made hymn requests for our recent Hymn Sing Prelude, and to all who sang favorites (old and new) with such enthusiasm. Singing together is a blessing and a vital part of our congregational life. We will do this again soon, so keep letting me know what you'd like me to include.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Keith

The September E.A.T. Night will be at Portillo's at 2306 N. Prospect Ave. on Monday, September 9, from 5-8pm. 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 in the narthex or online at stjohnls.com) and show it when you order. This fundraiser only applies to dine-in, carry out, or drive thru purchases. It does not include gift card 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!



New Member Class – New Member Class is starting Sunday, September 8th at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. 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. Please email Pastor Caithamer with any questions.

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.

LWML Champaign Zone Fall Rally "Seek The Lord" is September 11, 2024, at St Paul's Lutheran Church, 8975 E CR 1200 N, Mattoon, registration & coffee 8:30am and Opening 9:00am. The registration fee is \$10 goes to District operating expenses. Offering for mites. Mission speaker is Rev. Martin Eden about Uganda. Comfort Dog Rachel will attend. "Gifts of the Heart" Ingathering will be underwear sizes Men's -S, M, L, XL, 2XL, and Women's - 6, 7, 8, 9 to provide help for needy children newborn to age 18 in 7 surrounding counties during the Christmas season. See flyers on the bulletin board for more details. We will be carpooling. Please contact or RSVP Linda T if attending or/carpooling.

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>



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
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| 1 Hannah Fink, Chris Foste, Danielle Gharst,
Terry Gharst, Melissa Leichter | 17 Terry Cole, Tim Loftus, Damyan Shepherd,
Doug 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 Jack Bauer, 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 | 23 Elmer Crawford, Neal Erdman, Todd Lester, Jim
Mohr, Jack Winter |
| 10 Esther Blanton, LuAnn Hansens, Norm Fisher,
Stuart Johnson, Alexander O'Brian | 24 Preston Griffith, Sara McPike, Keith Williams |
| 11 Delaney Hansens | 25 Theresa Harrell, Garnet Johns, Alice Loftus,
David Ward |
| 12 Christina Bohlen, Marissa Wallace, Joanie
Wheatman | 26 Alex Crawford, Blake Hubert, Cindy Schilling,
Lilyana Wilder |
| 13 Jaylyn Bernau, Rachel Howell, Dan Martin,
Donna Oestreicher | 27 David Dani, Kevin Short |
| 14 Everett Carlson, Rochelle Funderburg, Karen
Landreth, Stephen Whitehill | 28 Jessica Treakle, Jeremy Watts |
| 15 Barbara Bonner, Benjamin Craw, Julianna Ross,
Zakary Stone | 29 John Downey, Ron Warsaw |
| 16 Mimi Donahoe, Sarah Kresca, Christina
Schwalbe | 30 Nadia Hartwig, Maiben Henss, Haleigh Lewis |

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Brandon & Jennifer Kovell (17) | 15 Steve & Jan Hancock (22) |
| 2 Kevin & Cissy Buskirk (45) | 18 Rick & Rita Boerema (42); Steve & Susie Oertwig
(54) |
| 3 Mike & Karen Beadle (24) | 19 Bob & Joan Arnold (70); Stephen & Donna Craw
(32); Kyle & Andrea Ronnfeldt (9) |
| 4 Keith & Judith Williams (48) | 20 Kyle & Edna Marcellus (38) |
| 5 Jeremy & Lana Tengwall (15) | 21 Chris & Linda Wise (39) |
| 6 Dean & Karla Hagan (38) | 24 Mark & Diane Pelafos (30) |
| 7 Chris & Tamara Gudauskas (28) | 25 Mark & Letha Morenz (43) |
| 8 Bryce & Chelsea Ladage (6) | 29 Tryston & Stephanie Beyrer (12) |
| 11 Terry & Robin Hinds (42) | |
| 14 Jim & Stephanie Demos (22); Walter & Anita
Rothermel (56) | |

PLEASE notify the church office (359-1123 or
churchoffice@stjohn-lcms.church) if your
birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect.


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.

SEPTEMBER

"So shall they put my name upon the people of
Israel, and I will bless them."
Numbers 6:27

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																				
1 15th Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	2 Labor Day <i>Church & School Closed</i>	3 10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:15 Fellowship Board 6:00 Trustees, School Board	4 8:08 Chapel 5:45 Midweek School 7:15 Holy Communion	5	6	7																																																																																				
8 16th Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion 1:00 New Member Class	9 5-8 E.A.T. Night @ Portillo's 5:30 Finance Board	10 6:00 Elders	11 8:08 Chapel 10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:45 Midweek School 6:00 Handbells 7:15 Holy Communion	12 7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Sammy's	13	14																																																																																				
15 17th Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion 1:00 New Member Class	16	17 5:30 LWML 6:00 Council	18 8:08 Chapel 10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:45 Midweek School, Lifelight 6:00 Handbells 7:15 Holy Communion	19 10:00 Lifelight	20	21																																																																																				
22 18th Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion 1:00 New Member Class	23 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	24 6:00 Parish Ed	25 8:08 Chapel 10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:45 Midweek School, Lifelight 6:00 Handbells 7:15 Holy Communion	26 10:00 Lifelight	27	28																																																																																				
29 19th Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion 1:00 New Member Class	30	Church Office 359-1123 School Office 359-1714	Pastor Caithamer's day off: Fridays	<div> August 2024 <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> </div>	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> October 2024 <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> </div>	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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