

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I'm sure this has been a difficult time for you for all kinds of reasons. Everyone has been affected in some way. And yet the good news is we still have reason to have joy. It's Easter and Christ is risen! Despite the challenges and our fears Jesus comes to us, like he did for his disciples, and says, "Peace be with you." Jesus gives us peace. He calms our troubled minds, casts out fear from our hearts, and comforts us with the power of his word. If Christ is risen, and he is, then that changes everything – not just for eternity, but in the here and now as well. Throughout the centuries the church has joyfully proclaimed, "Christ is risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia." In Greek it's "Christos Anesti!" And throughout the centuries this has been done even in times of war, pestilence, and famine. Because those things and more, no matter how disturbing they may be, cannot compare to the glory that awaits because of Jesus's resurrection. St. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4, "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (vv. 16-17). After Jesus' ascension up into heaven, Jesus' followers would face many hardships as they joyfully proclaimed the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting by God's grace in Jesus. They endured because of the hope flowing from Easter. And we can too!

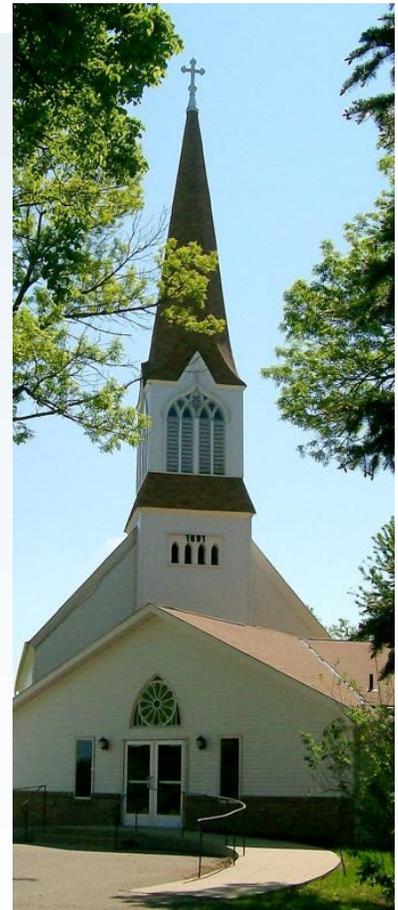
As of now I still don't what the plans are going forward to when things are going to be opened up again. But thank you for your patience, prayers, and offerings for the church. You have done marvelous. In the meantime, we're looking at how we can better do church and offer communion until things go back to "normal" for the most part. So stay tuned for updates!

One last I want to mention in the case you haven't yet heard. During the stay at home order we've had two members who have fallen asleep in Jesus: Margaret Lorensen and Ardie Kahmeyer. Please pray for their families as they mourn their loss. Memorial services will happen at a later date.

In Christ,

Pastor J. Christian Strickland

*A note from the secretary: Calendars are very fluid right now. Please forgive any events on the calendar that may change and please check the church website [www.stjohnatwater.com](http://www.stjohnatwater.com) or the Facebook page often. Please continue to email or call Ali with any bulletin announcements. They are posted on the website and emailed until we meet in person again.*

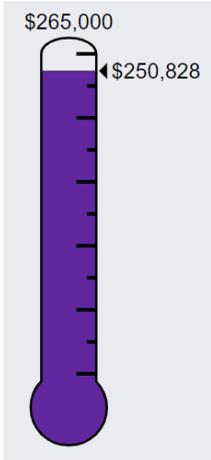


#### Inside this issue

Letter from Pastor .....	1
Ladies Aid .....	2
Calendar .....	3
Birthdays/Anniversaries .....	4
Fun Reads about Moms.....	5
Outreach .....	6
Special points of interest	
• Comics	



## LWML (Ladies Aid)



Continue to call each other or send notes of thoughts to each others. We are physically separated, but not alone.

Going along with the #Cancelled theme of social events right now, the LWML MN South District Convention this summer in Willmar is cancelled. Stay tuned for a Zone Rally when allowed to meet in person again.

Other happening since last month are the Artifact Display Case was cleaned by Ardy Johnson, and when you come by church, please check out our new informational board in the lobby.

The Ladies Aid group is open to any female member of the St. John Lutheran Church. We (usually) meet the first Thursday of the month (April—December) in the fellowship hall at 1:30pm. We have a bible study, a short business meeting and then enjoy each other's company with a meal (provided by a member on a rotational basis). We would love for more women to come and join in the fun that we have growing together and serving the Lord. Please check the St. John Lutheran Church Facebook page and your email regarding the May 7th meeting during this COVID-19 pandemic. Should we meet, Carmen Hanson will serve in place of the cancelled April meeting.



### *Nuggets of Wisdom to Enrich the Soul*

- ◇ In this world, trails are not meant to take the strength out of us, but to put strength into us.
- ◇ God may not be on time according to our schedule, but He is never late, for He has His own schedule and His is the only one that matters.
- ◇ The Bible is the only book whose Author is always present when you read it.
- ◇ The word of God provides us with all the tools we need to stay globally minded and locally relevant at the same time.
- ◇ Whatever our age or stage in life, God still has much truth to teach us from His word. Our task is to listen, learn and do what He reveals to us. There is always a "next step" He wants us to take.
- ◇ True humility results when we realize that all we are and have are derived from God. We have not, in and of ourselves, brought about anything new. All we can do is receive, take, use, rearrange and reorder what was here before us. When we learn to live and walk under the strong direction, correction and protection of God, we begin to develop humility.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Let each day begin with prayer, praise &amp; adoration; On the Lord cast every care, He is thy salvation. Morning, evening &amp; at night, Jesus will be near thee, save thee from the Tempter's might, with His presence cheer thee.</p>			<p>1 Confirmation 8:30am (Zoom Meeting)</p>		1	2
<p>3 SS/BC 9am Worship 10am  <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i></p>	<p>4  7pm Local Channel TV (Sunday's Service)</p>	<p>5  7:30pm Elder's Meeting</p>	6	<p>7  Ladies Aid 1:30pm (Carmen H Serve) CANCELLED</p>	8	9
<p>10 SS/BC 9am Worship 10am   <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i></p>	<p>11  7pm Local Channel TV (Sunday's Service)</p>	12	13	14	15	16
<p>17 SS/BC 9am Worship 10am  <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i></p>	<p>18  7pm Local Channel TV (Sunday's Service)</p>	19	20	21	22	23
<p>24 SS/BC 9am Worship 10am  <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i></p>	<p>25   7pm Local Channel TV (Sunday's Service)</p>	26	27	28	29	30
<p>31 SS/BC 9am Worship 10am  <i>The Day of Pentecost</i></p>						

# MAY 2020

## Birthdays

- 2 Anthony Gratz  
Harold Minnick
- 6 Daniel Rubis
- 12 Leo Boniek  
Bradley Gratz
- 13 Gary Kragenbring
- 16 Elden Pickle  
Toni Mettling
- 17 Ricky Kragenbring  
Alan Moll
- 20 Kris Holien
- 21 Ethan Lilleberg
- 22 Ardis Kahmeyer  
Elliot Gratz
- 25 Melissa Minowitz  
Jared Kaiser
- 26 Braeden Pickle
- 27 Patti Kaiser  
Sarah Strickland
- 28 Andrew Gratz



## Wedding Anniversaries

- 25 Elbert & Roberta Mahn

## Shut Ins

- Mary Baker
- Phyllis Miller
- Betty Moll
- Pat Skluzacek
- Marilyn Stoffers
- Sharon Zaeska

## Baptismal Anniversaries

- 2 Dorothy Pickle
- 5 William Rubis
- 9 Jillien Lilleberg
- 10 Marilyn Stoffers
- 14 Mavis Olson  
Nicole Lilleberg
- 18 Cole Zaeska
- 19 Bryan Weigelt  
Madeline Weigelt
- 21 Harold Minnick  
Richard Voigt
- 22 Colby Renne
- 24 Daniel Rubis
- 26 Bradley Gratz
- 28 Alan Moll
- 30 Leo Bonick
- 31 Crystal Voigt



Congratulation to...

Ethan Lilleberg  
Destiny Behm





10-11

© 2011 Bill Keane, Inc.  
 All rights reserved. www.familycircus.com

"First thing you need to know is, I didn't do it."

"Grandmothers hold our tiny hands for just a little while, but our hearts forever"  
 ~Author Unknown

### GOD MUST HAVE KNOWN

*God must have known how we would need  
 Some dear one close at hand;  
 Someone that we could count on,  
 Who would always understand;  
 Someone whose love would rise above  
 Our faults---our negligence;  
 One who would know no sacrifice---  
 Expect no recompense.  
 God must have known that other loves,  
 Though precious they might be,  
 Could never quite fulfil this  
 Special need of you and me.  
 He must have known that sometimes too,  
 We'd need a gentle prod,  
 A quiet close reminder of  
 The constant love of God.  
 God must have known we'd need one love,  
 Steadfast above all others  
 A love more likened to his own---  
 And that's why He made mothers.*

Happy Mother's Day 2020!

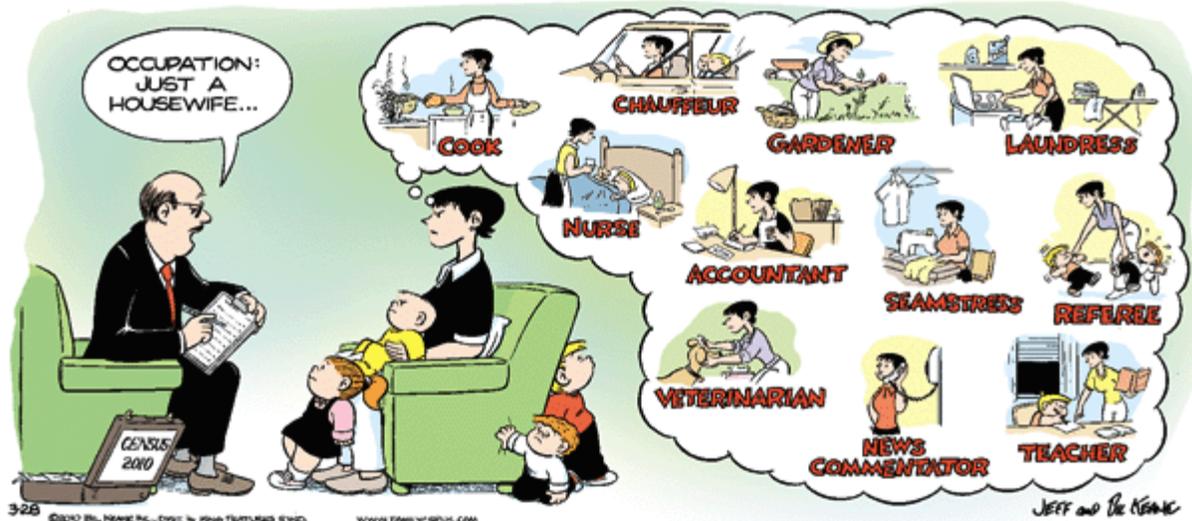
"Grandmother = a wonderful mother with lots of practice!"  
 ~Author Unknown

Taken from Yahoo Image Search 04/19/2020

### THANKS MOM!

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



328

©2010 BILL KEANE, INC., DIST. BY PHIL VENTURES (P) 100

WWW.FAMILYCIRCUS.COM

JEFF and Bill Keane



## Don't Stay Away from Church . . .



- ▶ Because you are poor. There is no admission charge.
- ▶ Because you are rich. Money is not everything.
- ▶ Because it rains. You go to work in the rain.
- ▶ Because it is cold. It is warm and friendly inside.
- ▶ Because it is hot. So are fishing and golfing.
- ▶ Because no one invited you. People go to a lot of places uninvited, and even pay to get in. *This paper is your invitation!*
- ▶ Because of hypocrites. We associate with them in the world every day.
- ▶ Because of company. Bring them along; they will admire you.
- ▶ Because you have little children. Jesus says, "Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me" (Matthew 19:14).
- ▶ Because your clothes are not nice enough. God looks on the heart.
- ▶ Because you do not like the preacher. He is human, as we all are.
- ▶ Because the church always wants money. That is not true here.
- ▶ Because you have plenty of time in the future. Are you sure?

**"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker." —Psalm 95:6**

—Author Unknown

St. John Lutheran Church

9-9:45 Adult Bible Class

9-9:45 Sunday School (Sept-May)

10am Sunday Worship



Welcome to

St. John Lutheran  
Church

Join us for Bible Class  
and Worship this

Sunday!

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD



19903-56th Ave NE  
Atwater MN 56201

Phone: 320-974-8984  
Email: [stjohnlchurch@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnlchurch@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stjohnatwater.com](http://www.stjohnatwater.com)



2020

Your  
May  
Newsletter

Jesus died & rose to save:

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE