Welcome to

St. John Lutheran Church

"Holding Fast to Biblical Truth for 150 years!"

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

19903-56th Ave NE
Atwater MN 56201

Phone: 320-974-8984
Email: stjohnlchurch@gmail.com
Website: www.stjohnatwater.com

Your October 2022 Newsletter

PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

Jesus died & rose to save:
«Name»
«Address»
«City» «State» «Zip»

St. John Lutheran Church
A word from our Pastor…..

October 2022
Volume 4, Issue 10

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every year the churches of the ACGC Ministerium take turns each month to pack backpacks with food for a number of kids and their families in the school district who are in need. As we did last year we will cover the month of November to pack backpacks two times during that month. November 3 and 17 are the drop off dates at the schools.

To prepare for this and to help this go smoothly volunteers are needed to pick up empty bags from both schools (elementary and high school), purchase meals (you will be reimbursed), pack the backpacks, and finally drop the backpacks off at the school. This is a fairly daunting task so the more people that can help the better!

I will provide a signup sheet to volunteer for this mission. I want to thank those in the past who have helped out with this task. November is a wonderful month to do this as we remember to give thanks to the Lord for his bountiful provision.

"Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" (Ps. 106:1)

Pastor J. Christian Strickland

Inside this issue

Letter from Pastor ……..…1
Memory Verse/LWML Update ….. 2
Calendar…… 3-4
Madagascar Mission Update ….. 5-6
Devotion …….. 7
Gardening Schedule ……. 8

Other October Happenings:

October 2nd - St. John Oktober Feast 430-730pm (Atwater Community Center)
October 9th - LWML Sunday (Cookies after church)
- Grove City CARE Octoberfest Dinner
October 11th - Circuit Pastor's Meeting
October 22nd - Litchfield Zone Fall LWML Rally, Howard Lake
October 29th - 35th Annual MN Lutheran Free Conference, Redeemer Lutheran Church

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge:
https://www.lcms.org/worship/memory-verse-challenge

Week of October 2, 2022 **1 Chronicles 16:25–26**
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Week of October 9, 2022 **James 5:16**
Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Week of October 16, 2022 **2 Peter 1:3**
His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.

Week of October 23, 2022 **Job 19:25–27**
For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

Week of October 30, 2022 **Genesis 15:6**
And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

This year's Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Sunday theme is "For Us and With Us," based on Romans 8:31-39. We celebrate at St. John on October 9th —

> "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:31-32)."

We glorify God by sharing His love with others. Your generous mite offering donations, enable us so we can share the Gospel throughout the world. Join us on LWML Sunday to give thanks and praise to God. Thank you for supporting the LWML!

This year we are doing a special food drive to celebrate 80 years of LWML. Our goal is to collect 80# of food and/or raise $80.00 to give to the Food Shelter in Willmar, MN. Will you help us? Donations can go in the grocery cart in entryway anytime during the month of October.

Next Ladies Aid meeting: October 6th @ 1:30pm

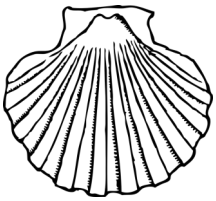
BC = Bible Class
SS = Sunday School

October 2022

AHB = Adult Handbell Choir
YHB = Youth Handbell Choir

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 **9am BC/SS** **10am Worship** **Oktober Feast Atwater Comm. Center 4:30—7:30pm** *17th Sunday after Pentecost*	3	4 7:30pm Elder's Meeting	5 YHB: 6-7pm AHB: 7-8pm Confirmation 7-8pm 8:00pm Church Council Meeting	6 Ladies Aid Mtg 1:30pm	7	2 8
9 **9am BC/SS** **10am Worship w/ Holy Communion** ***LWML Sunday*** *18th Sunday after Pentecost*	10 Quarterly Voter's Meeting 8pm	11	12 YHB: 6-7pm AHB: 7-8pm Confirmation 7-8pm	13	14	15
16 **9am BC/SS** **10am Worship** *19th Sunday after Pentecost*	17	18	19 YHB: 6-7pm AHB: 7-8pm Confirmation 7-8pm	20	21	22 St. Jame's LWML Fall Rally 9am
23 **9am BC/SS** **10am Worship** *20th Sunday after Pentecost*	24	25	26 YHB: 6-7pm AHB: 7-8pm Confirmation 7-8pm	27	28	29 35th Free Lutheran Conference, St. Cloud
30 **9am BC/SS** **10am Worship w/ Holy Communion** *21st Sunday after Pentecost*	31 *Reformation Day* 					

October 2022



Birthdays

3	Scott Schultz
4	Braelyn Santjer
8	Herman Witte
	Shannon Elton
	Sandie Behm
14	Chelsie Laue
15	Stan Lilleberg
	Joan Gatzmeyer
17	Jessica Unger
20	Ryan Busskohl
22	Donna Hedtke
	Kari Schultz
	Karla Schultz
	Randy Jones
	Bryan Weigelt
	Tricia Lilleberg
	Arlo Gilbertson
	Harvey Gilbertson
	Carrie Boniek
	Alexia Ellson
26	Delton Voigt
30	Gerald Gratz

Baptismal Anniversaries

4	Dillon Gratz
2	Kristi Lilleberg-Barber
7	Sandie Behm
	Briana Zaeska
8	Damian Zaeska
9	Lawrence Zaeska
11	Wyatt Renne
12	Clifford Hedtke
17	Alyssa McCune
20	Bunne Lu Johnston
22	Herman Witte
23	Kyler Pickle
24	Ryan Busskohl
26	Kari Schultz
	Karla Schultz
	Joan Gatzmeyer

Anniversaries

4	Bruce & Teresa Carlson
9	Erik & Jeanna Lilleberg
14	Tyler & Desarae Larson
23	Mitchell & Sheila Pickle
	Daniel & Phyllis Monson

Home Bound

Mary Baker
Stan Lilleberg
Pearl Schroeder
Pat Skluzacek
Marilyn Stoffers
Sharon Zaeska

Song of Solomon 3:4
"I have found the one whom my soul loves." (ESV)

COMMENCEMENT OF THE LUTHERAN SCHOOL PROJECT IN RANOTSARA

6th August 2022

==========

REPORT

Dear Rev. Christian Strickland and the Congregation at St. John Lutheran Church, Cc Kristopher and Alessia Holien

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

First of all, I wanted to offer you my sincere apology for the late submission of the report concerning the school project we are working on together in Ranotsara. The actual cause of this delay was the beginning of the Fall Semester 2022 on the one hand and the children's school year on the other hand. I feel much sorry if that had caused any consternation.

Second, however, with much joy, I am writing this report to inform you that the work to construct a new school building for Martin Luther Private School in Ranotsara has begun. A church service was held on Saturday, the 6th of August 2022, to lay the cornerstone of the new building. That was the beginning of the work. My family and I took a trip to Ranotsara for this event, and it was indeed a great feeling for us.

Now, the work is progressing well, and I often receive updates from the local pastor and the elder of the Lutheran congregation in Ranotsara, something I truly appreciate because I do not have to travel there all the time to supervise the progress of the work.

I have arranged some photos below from the event to the progress of the work.

We would appreciate your continuing prayers for the works here that God may guide us in doing all these ministries on His name in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May the Almighty Father continue pouring out His richest blessings upon you as His beloved congregation and protect you in the true faith and love until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Sincerely yours,

Pastor Jean Rajaonasy

Fall Pruning

"I am the True Grapevine, and My Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of Mine that doesn't produce fruit, and He prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me." (John 15:1-4 NLT)

by Guest Author, Thomas Kucinski

I'm sure you've noticed the amount of change that takes place in the world today. Sometimes the difference is small and barely visible like a short detour on your way to work. Other times it's huge like a pregnancy or a long illness—a real reconfiguration of your life. Today's selection from www.freedailydevotional.com is Part One (2022).

The Vine and Branches

Regardless of its size and impact, change can have far-reaching effects on your life and those you love. How does Jesus Christ instruct us to deal with all this change?

In John 15:1-8, Jesus guides us in a Scripture passage that we all know. He describes Himself as the Vine and we, His followers, are the branches. He says that those who abide in Him produce abundantly, but those who do not abide in Him are like withered branches, picked up to be thrown in the fire and burnt. He uses the phrase "abide in Me" several times, so He must have thought it was significant.

What does "abiding" mean? It means to "hang in there," and "don't move." It means to remain with Him and "stay put." Jesus' disciples were given this passage because He knew their lives were going to change. Although Jesus would leave soon, they would get The Holy Spirit to live within them and guide them in all Truth.

So how do we abide, especially when our lives are undergoing a reconfiguration? We can pay close attention to God's Word, "If you abide in me, keep my commandments." Many times when our lives shift dramatically, we put the Word aside—neither read nor pray. Then we lose our grasp.

This daily devotional encourages you to "Hang in There" no matter what is going on. Stay in God's Word and seek to develop an intimate relationship with Him. He will provide you with an unshakable foundation!

Heavenly Father, help me to keep the Truth of this Scriptural passage in the forefront of my mind as I rest within Your transformation of my life.

1 Corinthians 2:16 "We have the mind of Christ."

Romans 8:6 "The mind governed by the flesh [sinful man] is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace" (NIV)

Psalm 86:11 "Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name" (NIV)

2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness."

Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this *is* the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

UPPER MIDWEST HOME GARDEN CARE CALENDAR By the UMN Extension website:
[Upper Midwest home garden care calendar | UMN Extension](#)**)**

Spring cover crops: buckwheat, beans, clover, hairy vetch, peas, alfalfa

Fall cover crops: ryegrass, rye, rapeseed, oats, winter wheat, winter rye

What to Do	Best Time to Do it	Okay Time to Do it
Cut back perennials	March, April and November	
Start summer vegetables seeds indoors	Mid March through mid April	
Direct seed spring cover crops	All April	
Divide perennials	2nd week of April through 3rd Week of June	End of June through end of August
Water	3rd week of April through end Of November	
Mulch beds	May through end of June	October to end of November
Weed Control	May through September	
Plant summer bulbs	Last week of May through 2nd week of June	
Direct see summer vegetables	Last week of May through end of June	
Plant annuals	Last week of May through end of June	July through end of August
Plant perennials	Last week of May through August	
Fertilize	Last week of May through August	
Deadhead	June through September	
Direct Seed Fall Vegetables	Mid July through mid August	
Divide bearded iris	Late July through early August	
Divide peonies	Late August through September	
Direct seed fall cover crops	September through October	
Plant Spring Bulbs	2nd week of September through mid November	
Clean up Vegetable Garden	October through November	