



# The *GOOD NEWS*

To provide hope by Reaching out and Connecting people to Jesus through the Holy Spirit and Encouraging them to share the same Good News.

October 2018

## A Message from Pastor Brewer . . .

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**Pastor Carl Brewer**  
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### **Worship Services**

Sunday at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Monday at 7:30 p.m.

### **L.I.F.E. Hour**

Sunday at 9:15 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

Holy Communion is served the  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of each month.

Have you ever asked yourself if what you've been taught about the Christian faith is true? This question seems to be pretty popular today from both Christian and secular sources. From Christian sources because they are concerned that you've been taught something that will lead to your eternal suffering in hell. From secular sources because they cannot accept the orthodoxy, or truth, of many concepts that have been handed down concerning our faith. So how do we know what the truth is concerning the proper interpretation and understanding of the Christian faith?

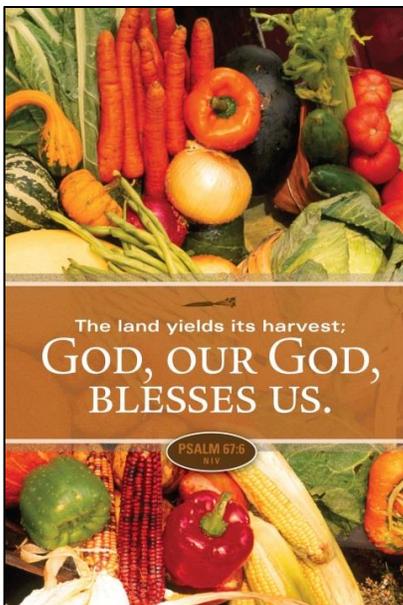
God's Word is the answer. But such a simple answer still often doesn't seem enough because the Word has been interpreted in so many ways over the years, and even recently. So how do we know what the truth is? Well let's start with a reading from the Bible found in 1 Corinthians 2:6-16,

*"<sup>6</sup> We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. <sup>7</sup> No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. <sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> However, as it is written:*

*"What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"— things God has prepared for those who love him— <sup>10</sup> these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.*

*The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. <sup>13</sup> This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. <sup>14</sup> The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. <sup>15</sup> The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, <sup>16</sup> for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?"*

*But we have the mind of Christ."*



So what does this reading say? God has revealed to us the mystery of His wisdom through the work of the Holy Spirit, and that wisdom is Christ. Christ, and His work of salvation, make no sense according to human logic. Grace and mercy are the opposite of what people deserve. Judgement seems to harsh to the wise of this world, and judgement that is meted out upon another in our place is not social justice. And yet God's plan of salvation from humanity's fall into sin has been and is specifically Jesus Christ.

The answer to properly understanding and interpreting God's Word and therefore the Christian faith lies in Jesus Christ. He is the hermeneutic piece that ties all of God's Word together and reveals it's true meaning. So why is the hermeneutic so often ignored? Because it doesn't fit with our view of the world around us. We are tempted to substitute our own hermeneutic in place of Christ based on our view of the world around us. Paul in our reading from above reveals that the only way to properly understand the faith is to be led by the Spirit into letting go of our assumptions and be informed by the Word alone.

So what does it mean to be led by God's Word alone? It means to become a theologian of the Cross. That all that we believe, teach and confess begins and ends at the cross of Christ. Salvation, justification, sanctification, social justice, how we treat each other, all these topics are formulated at the foot of the cross and in light of the cross. To begin or end anywhere else negates the whole faith.

So what does this practically mean for us today? Christ died for every one of our sins, both the ones we've committed in the past and the ones that we have yet to commit. They're already paid for. Does that mean that we should go and do whatever we want now with the rest of our lives? We could, but how long until the devil starts to convince us that Christ couldn't possibly have done such a great thing for us and we doubt? Or what about the opposite extreme? What is made of the cross when we so focus on our human efforts toward salvation that there must be something that we have to do? We deny the cross in so doing.

Being a theologian of cross is confusing and yet rewarding. Rewarding because Christ's gift to us who have been called by the Holy Spirit into believing in Jesus is eternal life in heaven. Rewarding because our lives become no longer about us, but about Christ who has made us His own, and who wants to work through us to do the same to others around us. Rewarding because one day we will be given something that we never can deserve, and yet was paid for by the very blood of our God. Christ is the link that connects all of God's Word and gives us life eternal. Amen.

✠ *In Christ, Pastor Brewer*



# NEWS & EVENTS

**Friday Men's Bible Study Group** will meet on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7am. We will be meeting at church every 2 weeks. Please consider joining us as we study 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians and enjoy some coffee, cake donuts and fellowship. If you have any questions, contact Charlie Piesler (920) 328-8704.

**New Members Class:** If you are considering becoming a member of St. John and interested in learning more about the beliefs and teachings of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, join us for a New Members Class on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Current members looking to refresh their knowledge on the teachings of the church are also welcome. Please contact Pastor Brewer to register.

## Attention Youth Members!

There will be a meeting for all youth and chaperones interested in attending the 2019 Youth Mission Trip or the 2019 National Youth Gathering. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm.

**My Time!** Do you know someone who struggles with addiction (abuse of alcohol, drugs or prescription pills) or mental illness? Is this negatively affecting your life? Join others who are also dealing with the same issues My Time – A support group meeting for parents, spouses, adult children and friends of loved ones with addiction or mental illness. The group meets on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. **Mark your calendars!**

**Chester Marcol, former Green Bay Packer player,** will speak on his addiction to drugs and alcohol and his struggle to overcome his addiction. Chester also has a book out called "Alive and Kicking; My Journey through Football, Addiction and Life". Chester will speak on November 6 at 7pm. The event is free and open to the public.

**Make Your Amazon.com Purchases Through AmazonSmile** and Help St. John Lutheran Church. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support St. John by shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7040573>

## Be Prepared For Anything - Self Defense Class Learn the basic skills necessary to protect yourself. Class taught by Kim's Tae Kwon do Center – Green Bay.

- Learn how to be Street Smart.
- How to be aware of your surroundings.
- How to deal with strangers, bullies.
- How to talk, walk or run away from a bad situation.
- How to defend against attackers.
- How to use simple Tae Kwon Do Techniques for Self-Defense.
- How to use your hands and feet to defend and attack.
- How to strike targets.
- How to get out of grabs, chokes, etc.

**Saturday, October 6, 2018  
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**St. John Lutheran Church  
700 Heritage Road | Luxemburg, WI**

\$5 per person ages 12 and up / Payable to St. John Lutheran Church  
Ages 12-16 must be accompanied with adults. Waiver form must be filled out. Registration is limited – Reserve your spot by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Registration forms are on the table in the Narthex.**

**Grief Share:** A session will begin here at St. John's on Tuesday, October 16, and continue through December 18. This series will be held during the day, 10:30-11:30 am. Grief Share is for anyone who has suffered a loss whether recently or in years past. There is no time limit on grief. Feel free to bring someone with you for support, as it can be very difficult to come by yourself. All participants and information shared remain confidential within the group. Interested in Grief Share but can't come during day time hours due to work schedule or other commitments? Other dates and times can be set up. For questions, call Norene Giese at 920-609-2716.

**Operation Christmas Child:** St. John is collecting for Operation Christmas Child again this year. Item collection will take place now thru November 11. Last year we collected 100 boxes – this year our goal is 150!

### Want to pack a box?

- Help yourself to a shoe box (available in the Narthex).
- Grab a label and tape it to your box (Boy or Girl)
- Return packed boxes to the church office before November 11<sup>th</sup>

### Donations are also welcome!

- Hygiene items (no toothpaste)
- School supplies
- Toys: Cars, Yo-yo's etc.



# Ruby's PANTRY

Sponsored by:  
St. John Lutheran Church  
700 Heritage Road | Luxemburg, WI

## Pop-Up Food Pantry

### Saturday, October 13

Registration starts at 8:30 am and ends at 10:00 am.

Food Distribution begins at 9:00 am.

Everyone Who Gets Hungry Qualifies!

No residency or income requirements or restrictions

- \$20 cash donation
- Bring 2 large boxes, totes or laundry baskets
- You will receive an abundance of grocery items
- Distribution will take place at St. John, 700 Heritage Road in Luxemburg

Keep watching for more information: [www.stjohnlux.com](http://www.stjohnlux.com)  
or call (920) 845-5250

*Ruby's Pantry is a non-profit food ministry serving our rural communities on a monthly basis.*

**ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT - THURSDAY DEC. 6TH!** Sign up for Advent by Candlelight will be Sunday October 14th following the 8 am service in the narthex... Please pay for your table at the time of sign up, checks may be made payable to St. John Lutheran Church.

1 Hostess per table is free for the event:

Table of 8 = \$70.00

Table of 7 = \$60.00

Table of 9 = \$80.00

Keep watching the bulletin for more details

**Gentle Plus Exercise Class:** The schedule is out for the Gentle + Exercise class. This is a great class for seniors who want to keep moving & meet up with other seniors. Participants can attend any or all classes. No set fee's however donations are accepted.

#### Class Schedule:

- **Luxemburg** will host a 9am Monday's class from Oct 1-Oct 29 at St Johns Lutheran Church 700 Heritage St Luxemburg.
  - **Rankin** will host 9am Tuesdays & Thursday's from Sept 25-Oct 30 at St Johns Evangelism Church E221 Church Rd Algoma/Rankin
- For more information contact Diane at 920-609-2765

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Elder Minutes September 6, 2018

Open with Prayer

Elders Present:

Chris denHeiger, Larry Jorgenson, Frank Dorn, Marv Perleberg, Neil Seering, Craig Van Pay, Pastor Brewer

Transfers In/ New Members:

- ~ Brenda Reckelberg transferred from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Minot, ND
- ~ Arnie Neubauer transferred to Rock Of Ages, Minocqua, WI

Old Business: None

New Business: Talked about White Knight (Christ of the Bay)

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by: Frank Dorn

Next Meeting: October 4, 2018

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### **Evangelism Meeting September 13, 2018**

Attendance: Heidi VandenBush, Jodi Kinnard, Jenny Shaw, Peggy Miesler, Pastor Brewer, Nancy Loberger

Jenny has talked to her contacts at Northwoods Vineyard Church. She talked with Nate their Pastor who leads the Shapes Class at his Church and he has graciously shared his notes with us.

This program is designed to discover the gifts all members of our congregations have been given so everyone can be involved in church leadership and activities.

The best way to institute this program would be to have 3 training sessions starting with our small groups.

After much discussion our team has decided to review the materials further and continue to work with Pastor on how to offer the class.

Sue Falish has contacted our team about sponsoring \$100 speaking engagement by Chester Marcol. We have agreed to cover this request from our budget

Nancy Loberger

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### **Board of Education**

Board of Ed has not met this month yet. However, all of the Life Hour teaching positions have been filled, and the Life Hour social on Sept 9th was well-attended. Kim Piesler and Jean Loberger have offered to lead the older children's Christmas program this year.

Submitted by: Wendy Havel

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### **Church Council Meeting September 19, 2018**

Members present: Pastor Brewer, Craig Van Pay, Rob Funk, Norene Giese, Jenny DeGrave, Larry Jorgenson, Chris Hanmann, Dan DeGrave, Marv Perleberg, Jenny Tenor, Marilyn Mueller, Lloyd Loberger, Peggy Miesler

Craig Van Pay opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris Hanmann. Seconded by Marv Perleberg. Motion carried.

Pastor reported that Brenda Reckelberg transferred in from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Minot, ND, and Arnie Neubauer transferred to Rock Of Ages, Minocqua, WI.

Rob Funk provided the budget for January 1 through August 31, 2018:

- Church Revenue - \$187,722
- Total Expenses - \$155,497
- Total Assets - \$224,950
- Difference minus Operating Expenses = \$31,976

Rob noted that \$9,870 was paid out from Building Improvements for the vestibule added to the west side of the fellowship hall.

Elders – Discussed the White Knight situation with Christ of the Bay Church in Green Bay. Further discussion under New Business.

Trustees –Lloyd shared the following:

- Jeff Dart has some finishing up work with the fellowship vestibule. There is also some foundation fill-in that needs to be completed.
- Some tree mulching has taken place. Rob stated that is has helped for grass cutting.

Stewardship Committee –

- The Blood Drive will take place on Monday, September 24.
- New members will be introduced at the potluck following the Voters' meeting on October 28. One church service will take place at 9:00 with the meeting immediately afterwards.
- Discussion took place on time/talent.
- Lisa Lemens will be discussing expectations for the committee with Pastor.
- Committee discussed the possibility of creating a church cook book.
- Next meeting will be October 16.

Board of Education – nothing to report this month.

Evangelism Committee –

- Continued discussion of 3 Colors of Ministry book.
- The committee has been asked and will donate \$100 from their account towards the presentation by Chester Marcol on November 6.

Old Business:

- Future Needs Assessment needs continue to be considered. An expanded parking lot will need to be considered. The needs will be discussed at the October Council meeting discussion for the 2019 budget.

New Business:

- Discussion took place regarding the White Knight situation at Christ of the Bay Church in Green Bay. Pastor Brewer has been approached by members of their congregation to assist with their financial situation. They are looking for a “healthy” congregation to adopt their church. There are a number of possibilities to be considered. Christ of the Bay is at a point to not be able to finically support a minister and our congregation could help support them by providing ministerial help through Pastor Brewer and Vicar Van Pay. Their operating costs could possibly be added to our budget. It is expected that Christ of the Bay will be able to pay off their mortgage and only need some assistance with operating costs. Churches may have to merge in the future if the expected shortage of ministers does take place. The Elders recommended our congregation obtain more information and to sit down with their members before a decision is made.

Lloyd Loberger moved to allow Pastor Brewer to continue discussion with Christ of the Bay with regards to a White Knight scenario. Seconded by Jenny Tenor. Motion carried.

Marv Perleberg encouraged all members to pray what the next step is to be.

The next Council Meeting will be Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

The November Council meeting will take place on the fourth Wednesday, November 28, the third Wednesday is the day before Thanksgiving.

Rob Funk moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Marv Perleberg. Motion carried.

Closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Norene Giese  
Council Secretary