



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 2021



From the desk of Pastor Brewer

In the face of all the craziness in our world today I believe the thing we need the most is to get back to the basics of the faith. We can try to chase after every loose end in the world today to provide an answer for it, but if we don't understand the basics, we will lose out in the end.

The most basic command in all the scriptures is found in Exodus 20, *"And God spoke all these words: 2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3 "You shall have no other gods before me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."* While this command sounds so simple to keep, in reality, it is an impossible feat to accomplish as human beings.

Whether we realize it or not the world around us no longer believes in this reality. It would rather not believe that God exists at all, or if He does exist blame Him for all our problems. Why? Have you ever asked yourself that question? Why does the world want to deny the existence of God? The answer is found in the first commandment above. As sinful human beings we don't want anything to be more important than ourselves. In our arrogance as a narcissistic creation, we want to tell our Creator that He doesn't exist, so that we can delude ourselves into thinking we have all the control.

Just look around you every day to see the millions of ways this false reality of personal control plays out. The government will take care of you, medicine will cure you, money will solve all your problems, this pill is a magical cure for weight, hair loss, anxiety, feeling like everything is out of your control, etc. Do you get my point? We face constant temptation to fool ourselves into thinking that we can control the world around us by the greatest deceiver of them all.



St. John Lutheran Church
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Fall Worship Services

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

L.I.F.E. Hour

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

Holy Communion is served each week

We will continue to stream the 8am service each week on the St John Lutheran Church Facebook page.

Online giving is available!
Visit www.stjohnlux.com and
click on Online Giving – Your
Support Counts!

So what is the answer to this problem, the problem of our sinful nature that still operates under the delusion of our ancestors Adam and Eve false belief we can be god? God's truth. The truth that not only is He our Maker, and the One in control of the universe, but that He is also the answer to all of our problems, in Christ.

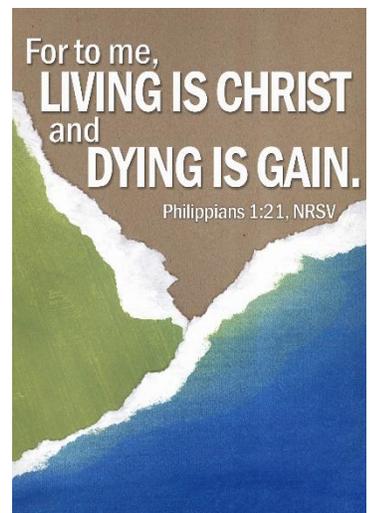
Unlike human beings, Jesus put His full trust in His and our heavenly Father and followed His commandments completely His whole earthly life. Unlike you and I who can't even keep the first commandment because we want to make ourselves into god, Jesus humbled Himself to be one of His creation and willingly gave up His life for them. He did this to give us a new life, not in this world, because sin's taint is still found within it. No, the life He won for us on the cross is yet to come. We need to be reminded of this simple truth again and again. We don't live for this life, but for the day our Lord returns to remake all things. At the same time, the little time we have left is meant to be used for spreading God's Word.

Think of the impact of this simple point of belief. In the midst of a pandemic, we don't need to live in constant fear of death because eternity is our real home. Yet we take the precautions we can so that we have more opportunities to be used by God to spread His Word. We live our lives now not for ourselves, but for Him who redeemed us.

The Apostle Paul teaches us this very reality inspired by God in both 1 Corinthians 5:1-10, *"For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. 2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, 3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. 4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 For we live by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

and Philippians 1:18-26, *"18 But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, 19 for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.[d] 20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me."*



In the midst of all the craziness of life, no matter how upside down the world becomes in its thinking, our confidence is in the One who made us and redeemed us, the one is the first and the last, the one who was, who is and is to come. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the God who loved us so much in His grace He bought us salvation. This is the message He has given us to share with the world today, and He promises His Word will not return empty. Amen. †

Ruby's PANTRY

October 9, 2021

Parking lot opens & In person registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

Food Distribution from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

\$20 donation for an abundance of food.

Express Track: Reserve your bundles ahead of time with Express Track! Visit rubyspantry.org and create an account. If that time is full, try a different one. Come to Ruby's on the day of the pantry at the designated time. It's that simple! We apologize we do not have an express track pickup lane at this time.

You will receive an abundance of grocery items!
Drive-thru distribution at St. John Lutheran Church
700 Heritage Rd. Luxemburg WI

News
&
Events

40 Days for Life Fall Vigil: The Fall 40 Days for Life Vigil is Sept 22-Oct 31, 2021. You're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're invited to stand/walk and peacefully pray during a 40-day round the clock vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood at [2605 S. Oneida Street in Ashwaubenon](http://2605SOneidaStreetinAshwaubenon), and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach and witness for Life. If you'd like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to walk for Life, please contact Nola Duescher [845-2196](tel:845-2196) or Dianne Zeitler [845-2840](tel:845-2840). Want to know more about the 40 Days Vigil? check out the website at www.40DaysforLife.com. **Please keep all of the 40 Days for Life volunteers in your daily prayers.**

The Outreach team would like to send a care package to our College students to stay in touch with them while away from home. Please provide the student's name and mailing address to Peggy Miesler or to the church office. Peggy can be reached via email at pjmies5@aol.com or via phone at 920-883-1090.

Help us raise money for the Garage! Looking for 30 people for Lambeau Field seat pick up on the Monday November 15 and Monday, December 13th. Meet at Lambeau field at 4:15pm at the Fleet Farm Gate. They tell you to anticipate this taking a couple hours but we've always been done in an hour. Wear comfortable clothing. Stairs and walking required. Not a difficult job and an easy fund raiser. We will be picking up the seats with other groups. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex. Contact Sandra Hanmann with questions (920) 304-0044.

Porkie / Pancake Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip will take place on Sunday, October 24 from 9am – noon. Dine-in or take-out available.

Advent By Candlelight: Save the date! ABC will take place on Thursday Dec 9th (leading into 2nd Sunday of Advent).

Have you heard of Operation Christmas Child? It's a ministry through Samaritan's Purse that allows us to send a shoebox filled with small items such as school supplies/toys/personal items to a child in a third world country. Each box is an opportunity for a boy or girl to experience the love of God in a tangible way and hear the Gospel. We participated in this outreach over the years, and it is something that we deeply enjoy doing together. We were able to pack 80 boxes last year and our goal this year is 150! We would love for you to participate. Boxes are located in the narthex and should be returned no later than November 15th. Donations are also being accepted and can be placed in drop box by the church office window. Please contact Sue Hanmann 920-845-5250 with questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elder Minutes - September 16, 2021

Open with Prayer

Elders Present: (include first and last name)

Jeff VanDen Berg, Eric Nelson, Paul Derenne, Matt Kinnard, Kevin Lampe,
Pastor Craig Van Pay, Pastor Carl Brewer

Transfers In/ New Members: None

Name: <i>(include all family member names joining)</i>	Type of Transfer: <i>(Church, new member class, Affirmation of Faith)</i>
Pat Behrens	Affirmation of Faith
Robin Huber	Transfer from – Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Released from Membership: None.

Old Business: None.

- New Business:**
- Working on setting up schedule for Elders.
 - Discuss how second service is going
 - Will meet with Pastor's wives Amy and Jessica next month.

Closed with Prayer

Submitted by: Jeff Vanden Berg

Next Meeting: October 21, 2021

Outreach Minutes - September 14, 2021

Attendance: Jenny Shaw, Peggy Miesler, Pastor Brewer, Nancy Loberger

We opened the meeting with prayer.

We would like to send a care package to college students to stay in contact with them while they are away at college. Peggy has agreed to chair this project along with help from Miriam Hemp, Jodi Kinnard & Heidi VandenBush. Peggy will also apply for Thrivent Funds. Nancy will contact the office to put a notice in church bulletin for a list of names.

We also discussed final preparations for the Shape class we are holding with the Stewardship Committee on September 23 from 5 – 8. We will provide lunch for those attending. Pastor will lead the program.

We will schedule our next meeting at a later date.

Nancy Loberger

Trustee Meeting - September 13, 2021

Attended: Ken Batten, Pastor Carl Brewer, Kevin VandenBush

Opened with prayer

- Discussed request for use of facilities form and made some changes.
- Discussed purchase of a freezer
- Both sump pumps went out in the basement, purchased 2 new ones for \$350 each with Lifetime warranty
-Discussed checking the pumps once a year to see if they are working
- Discussed changing of furnace filters
-the procedure and list of the filters that we need
- Discussed garage progress
-in the insulating/finish stage
-electrical is finished
- Discussed garage progress
-in the insulating/finishing stage
-electrical is finished
- Discussed carpet cleaning
-education wing is cleaned and bad spots in the Sanctuary cleaned
- Discussed phone system upgrade for \$4000 or less.
- Starting discussions on snow plowing schedule

Closed with prayer

Respectfully submitted by Kevin VandenBush

Stewardship Committee - September 15, 2021

Members present: Carmine Nell, Gail Treml and Brenda Reckelberg

Missing: Dana Engelking

Blood Drive

The next blood drives are September 27th and November 29th. Red Cross will handle the volunteers and snacks for September due to the increase in COVID cases.

SHAPES

We are working through each of our profile assessments to be prepared for the SHAPES session for the Stewardship Committee on September 23rd.

Church Directory

We have made several contacts and inquiries about a church directory. We have reached out to Harmann Studios to obtain information on their capabilities. We will continue to research other options as well.

Keys for all Committee members

We are still waiting to receive two keys for Dana and Brenda.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next stewardship meeting is October 13th at 6:00.

Submitted by: Carmine Nell

Church Council Meeting – September 16, 2021

Members present: Pastor Brewer, Pastor VanPay, Edward Trembl, Rob Funk, Norene Giese, Jenny DeGrave, Kevin Lampe, Jeff VanDenBerg, Janice Krueger, Brenda Reckelberg, Dan DeGrave, Peggy Miesler

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Trembl.

Pastor VanPay opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the August 5 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Jenny DeGrave. Seconded by Jeff VanDenBerg. Motion carried.

Pastor reported the transfer of Robin Huber to Pilgrim Lutheran Church and Pat Behrens by Affirmation of Faith. Per the August 5 Elders Meeting minutes Kayla Hill along with children Lilly and Jax by Affirmation of Faith from Grace Lutheran Church/Kewaunee.

Rob Funk provided the budget for January 1 through August 31, 2021:

- Total Undesignated Contributions - \$197,069
- Total Church Revenue - \$207,923
- Total Expenses - \$193,574
- Total Assets - \$284,888
- Difference: Contributions minus Total Expenses = positive \$3,495
- Ruby's Pantry: Savings - \$3,280 & Checking - \$3,730
- Paid on Loan 2021: \$11,026 – Loan Balance: \$126,911
- Apron Gang: Savings - \$25 & Checking - \$4,708

Rob stated that he expects updated amounts for Ruby's Pantry and Apron Gang for the next Council meeting. The Specific Ministries account under Revenue will show a negative balance for the remainder of the budget year.

Elders –

- Shared information regarding the transfer of Robin Huber to Pilgrim Lutheran Church and Pat Behrens through Affirmation of Faith.
- Discussed Elders schedule for coverage of all church services.
- Discussed resumed second service on September 12.
- Will be meeting with the Pastors' wives at the next Elder's meeting.

Trustees –

- Struggling to find volunteers to help with the garage construction.
- The curb and gutter has been poured and work should begin soon on paving of Heritage Road.
- Discussion took place about purchasing a new 2-door freezer. Also included questions regarding insurance coverage of Ruby's Pantry owned property if it is covered under the church insurance and what happens to equipment if Ruby's Pantry would cease to exist. It was felt a meeting should take place with Sue Raduenz to review the contract with Ruby's Pantry. All future purchases should specify what happens with the equipment and who has ownership. Purchase of a new freezer to be discussed under New Business.
- Question was asked about ventilation for the storage room where the freezers are stored. The Trustees have been discussing this.

Stewardship Committee –

- The next Blood Drive will take place on September 26 and again in November. Due to the increase in Covid infections recently, the Red Cross will again supply all volunteers and snacks.
- The Committee along with Evangelism Committee will be doing a SHAPES class with leaders on September 23.
- Update on a Church directory as most companies no longer provide this resource. A message has been left with Harmann Studios but no response at this time. Rob Funk has someone he can contact directly to get information.

Board of Education –

- Life Hour started September 12.
- The Adult Bible group with Pastor Brewer had good attendance.

Evangelism Committee –

- A SHAPES activity will be taking place on September 23 with Stewardship Committee members and other Council leaders.
- Care packages will be assembled for college aged students living away from home. A Thrivent Grant was obtained to help with expenses to purchase items and to help pay postage. A note will be placed in the bulletin requesting names. God is still with them no matter where they are.

Future Needs Committee – Will be meeting in the fall.

Old Business –

- Dan DeGrave shared that \$55,389 of the \$80,000 loan has been spent on the garage. Well below the estimated costs. There are still expected costs for the heating system and to Mertens for grading around the building. Discussion took place about possibly using some of the excess money to pay the \$11,000 cost of adding drainage to the parking lot to prevent the standing water in the parking lot. The Church's cost is approximately \$30,000 for the curb and gutter update on Heritage Road and will have five years to complete the payments. Manpower is needed to help complete the garage.
- Quotes have been received at upgrading the phone system. Included in the quotes is installing a keyless entry system on some of the outside doors and hopefully eliminate the need for keys. Because most of the wiring is already in place within the building, there is the possibility that members could do the work ourselves at a reduced cost. The village wide internet updates should be completed in November. More information will be available at the next Council meeting.

New Business –

- The Voters' meeting will take place on Sunday, November 7, immediately following the 10:30 service. The 2022 budget approval will take place.
- It was recommended that a new 2-door freezer be purchased (which will have a warranty) rather than looking for a used freezer. This freezer will be available each month for Ruby's Pantry Blessing Boxes. If available, perhaps excess loan funds could be used. Rob Funk moved to purchase a freezer from the Capital Outlay account. Seconded by Kevin Lampe. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 4, 7:00 p.m.

Rob Funk moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dan DeGrave. Motion carried.

Closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norene Giese, Council Secretary