

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 3-4, 2020



The readings for this Sunday could well fit during Lent; after all, the *Gospel* takes place during Holy Week. All the elements, in fact, point to Jesus' Passion—His rejection and murder by His own people. The primary image is of vines and vineyards: planted and nurtured with meticulous, literally loving, care. Yet the vineyard of the Lord yielded not good fruit but "wild grapes" (*Old Testament Reading*, Is 5:2). As a result, the *Psalms* grieves that Yahweh has "broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit" (Ps 80:12). These Old Testament passages, of course, prefigure later Israel killing the vineyard master's own son when he comes (Mt 21:39). "Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him" (*Collect*). Here's the remarkable thing: the *Introit*. For this terrible tragedy, "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! . . . The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes" (Ps 118:1, 22–23). It's why St. Paul, with all his impressive credentials as a man of Israel, would count that all as rubbish for the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus (*Epistle*, Phil 3:4–8).

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

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*Equipping the family of God to joyfully and boldly make disciples of Christ as we
KNOW Jesus and one another, **GROW** to be more like Him and
SOW His love in Word and deed.*



Weekend Worship Services

October 3-4, 2020

Dale Scheiderer – Organist

“Life and Death in the Vineyard” - Isaiah 5:1-7

The vineyard is frequently used in Scripture to denote a special place in God's creation. To have a vineyard and enjoy its fruit is a blessing. When the prophet Isaiah speaks of the goodness of the Lord, he says that God's favored people “shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit” (Isaiah 65:21). Vineyards were planted with a fruitful harvest in mind. We are the Lord's planting, and we eagerly await our harvest home.

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELL

OPENING HYMN

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

LSB 892 vs 1-2



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; Raise the song of har-vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to His praise to yield;



All be safe - ly gath - ered in Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown.



God, our mak - er, doth pro-vide For our wants to be sup-plied.
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; Raise the song of har-vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.

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INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: O God our Father, since You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son, we confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow His guidance, and our reluctance to bear the cross. We acknowledge that we are by nature sinful and unclean and know in our hearts that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

C: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

P: Forgive us for all that is amiss in our lives, as we continually break Your commands. Forgive us that we have not always been fruitful plantings in Your vineyard.

C: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

P: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: May the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

C: Amen.

+ Service of the Word +

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 5:1-7*

Israel is compared to a vineyard that was once fertile, but eventually yielded bad fruit. When the Lord looked for justice and righteousness in His people, He saw instead bloodshed and distress.

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: *Philippians 3:4b-14*

Paul was a Pharisee and devoted to the law, but Christ transformed him completely on the Road to Damascus and revealed to Paul that He was everything. Paul's words to press on toward the heavenly goal spur us on as believers to strain ahead until we meet Jesus face to face.

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

The Pharisees were more concerned with the Law than with accepting Jesus as the Son of God. They had failed in their responsibilities to lead the nation of Israel both in their personal lives and public ones. So Jesus told the Parable of the Tenants to illustrate that both Jews and Gentiles producing good fruit would occupy the Church and experience the unfolding of God's Kingdom through the Cornerstone- Jesus Christ.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

³³[Jesus said:] "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." ⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON MESSAGE: "Life and Death in the Vineyard" - Isaiah 5:1-7

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERINGS OF OUR TIME, TALENTS & TREASURES

"Lord, we are yours. This represents our heart, our attitude, our spirit, and our willingness to recognize and submit to you as our Lord.

+ SACRAMENT +

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

PAX DOMINI

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

LSB 892 vs 3-4



3 For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His har-vest home,
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To Thy fi - nal har-vest home;



From His field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way,
Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin,



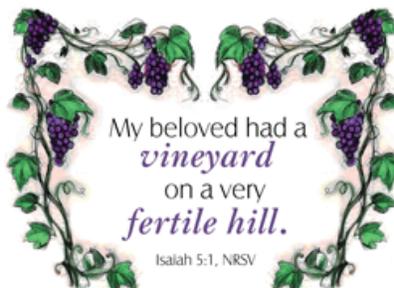
Give His an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
There, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy gar - ner to a - bide:



But the fruit - ful ears to store In His gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come with all Thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

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NOTES AND NEWS

Church Sanctuary Worship Service Guidelines: St. John's has reopened its doors for worship services. Special guidelines will be followed to help assure the safety of everyone attending church, but we know the coronavirus is still active among us. We know that God desires us all to be together in worship again, but we are also sure He wants us to use good judgement in protecting our health.

- We encourage elderly, at-risk, and symptomatic people to continue worshipping from home (the "live streaming" service on Face Book continues).
"At risk" conditions include: 65 years or older, chronic lung disease, moderate/severe asthma, serious heart conditions, compromised immune systems, severe obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis and liver disease.
- **Wearing face masks inside the church/sanctuary is REQUIRED.** If you don't have one, masks are available throughout the church, along with hand sanitizing stations. Pastor will wear a mask, except when preaching God's Word.
- Services will be held at 6:00 pm on Saturdays, and 8:30 am & 11:00 am on Sundays. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to each service and secured during the services.
- To comply with 6' social distancing guidelines, seating will be limited to every third pew (2 pews in between). Family groups and individuals will be separated by 6' in each pew. Services will be limited to approximately 75 attendees. Overflow will be asked to listen to the service on FM 92.1 in their cars.
- Ushers and Elders will assist with entry and dismissal to maintain social distancing. Do not sit in the taped off pews and follow the Ushers/Elders directions. We will be seating front to back upon entry and dismissing from back to front.
- Ushers (wearing gloves & masks) will hand out bulletins with the service liturgy and hymns (please take these home; they can't be reused). Hymnals, Bibles and attendance books have been removed from the pews.
- Offerings are collected at the sanctuary doorways while exiting the service. Exit the church promptly upon dismissal as the sanctuary, hallways, restrooms **MUST** be sanitized before the next service. Please socialize outside the church.

These guidelines are based on current Federal, State and County Health requirements and the recommendations of the LCMS to provide for your well-being. Although, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of Covid-19 or other infectious agents, the ultimate responsibility for preventative measures belongs to whomever comes to join us at St. Johns'. Thank you for your patience and understanding during these challenging time.

Additional Worship Service Information: (all 3 services are traditional worship services)

- By Radio - You can join our 8:30 a.m. service by tuning to WQTT1270 AM and 96.7 FM.
- Join us in the parking lot by tuning your car radio to 92.1 FM at any of our sanctuary services.
- Join us on Facebook at 11:00 am for our "live streaming" service, or after on Sundays at: <https://www.facebook.com/jack.heino>

Sacrament of the Holy Communion: We are offering the Sacrament of the Holy Communion on the first and third weekends of each month. **This will be given in the Marie Pfarr Room** as you leave and only individual cups will be offered. If you wish not to receive the Sacrament, you may exit out the front doors or wait in line and exit from the Marie Pfarr Room. Please follow social distancing and hand sanitizer is available. **If you choose to attend worship from the parking lot instead of the sanctuary,** as soon as the church has emptied, you will be invited to come in and receive communion at that time, or to avoid leaving your vehicle you can drive under the portico (Marie Pfarr Room side), stop and roll down your window to receive communion.

**THERE ARE PLENTY OF SEATS AVAILABLE AT THE
6:00 PM SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE & 11 A.M SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE.**

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

Welcome to St. John's. Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We pray that you will encounter Christ, the Living Word, and in a new way experience His mercy and grace today. If you are a guest or visitor we hope we have the chance to say hello. If you would like to know more about our ministry, please call the church office at 937-644-5549.

The Lutheran Hour is on the radio Sunday mornings at **7:00am on WLW (700 AM)**. Log on to www.lhm.org for more information and channels. Jim Vandre, LHM Ambassador.

St. John's Radio Program airs Sunday mornings at **8:30am** on local channel **WQTT (1270 AM & 98.7 FM)**.

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are placed with love and fond memories of our dear friend and sister, Babe Decker, from **The St. John's Quilters**

THE LORD'S WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S October 4-11, 2020

We continue to review events based on Covid-19 health protocol.

TODAY	LWML Weekend
10/04	8:30 am Sanctuary Worship Service/Communion 9:30 am Adult & Young Adult Bible Study/Youth & Children Sunday School 9:45 am Youth Catechism Class/Classrooms 11:00 am Sanctuary Worship & "Live Streaming"/Comm.
MONDAY	6:30 pm Ladies Aid Quilting 8:00 pm Adult Volleyball Open Gym
TUESDAY	11:30 am Ladies Aid Quilting 7:00 pm Bd. Of Admin Meeting/ Heritage House
THURSDAY	12:00 pm Ladies Aid Quilting
SATURDAY	6:00 pm Sanctuary Worship Service
SUNDAY	8:30 am Sanctuary Worship Service 9:30 am Adult & Young Adult Bible Study/ Youth & Children Sunday School 9:45 am Youth Catechism Class/Classrooms 11:00 am Sanctuary Worship Service & "Live Streaming"

ALL AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 - 10:30 am

3 Years through 6th Grade—Church Basement: Separated by age group.

7th & 8th Grade Youth Catechism Class—Mrs. Bowsher & Mrs. Monroe's Classrooms: **Time: 9:45 - 10:45 am**

High School Youth "Cornerstone Discipleship"—Youth House

Women's Bible Study—School Loft: Start-up postponed until October. **Will join the Cafeteria Bible Study through September.**

Adult Bible Study—Cafeteria: **Topic, "The Intersection of Church & State" continues through September.** The study examines the dynamic give-and-take relationship that has marked the crossroads of church and state in this country. Though roadblocks are frequent where church and state meet, there is still tremendous potential for significant work to be done when they work together.

If you have questions, please contact Sunday School Superintendent, Lisa Arnold at 937-205-1802 or arnoldlisa50@yahoo.com.



Altar Flower Opportunities

Only **FOUR** dates remaining for the altar:

**October 11, November 1, November 15
and November 29**

Flowers can be purchased from a florist, a garden center, or made from personal flower gardens.

Please contact Charlotte Blumenschein at 937-644-4111 or 937-537-0607 to reserve a date.

Chancel flowers are available any weekend.

Weekly Worship Bible Readings

For those of you who would like to study the Word ahead of the next weekends worship services, we are listing here in the N&N the Bible readings that Pastor Jack will be using.

October 11, 2020

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-13

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Unavailable Church Parking Lot Spaces: Starting Monday, September 28, the first row of parking spaces along the west side the church (Kandel Road side) will be blocked off due to work being done on the church chimney. This will take approximately 3 weeks. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. Thank you - **The Board of Properties**

Congregational Tithe Second Quarter Mission Opportunities of Fiscal Year 2020-21

Ohio District LCMS - 50%, Clothes Closet - 20%, Youth Mission Outreach - 10%, Food Pantries - 10%, Lutheran Hour - 10%



NOTES & NEWS ITEMS



SJS Lunchroom Administrator/Head Cook and Asst. Cook Needed

These positions will be accountable to the Principal and Board of Christian Education. They will work as a team members with all other personnel of the school and church. Relationships will be characterized by loyalty and cooperation in a common ministry for Jesus Christ. Candidates should be prepared to greet the parents, students, and staff, prep, wipe with bleach water, prep, and serve during the hot lunch program. Lifting of 30 lbs. or more in and out of the oven and in the store room is required. The candidates will also maintain credentials for food service in conjunction with federal and state requirements. Please send a letter of interest to Mr. Rausch.



Thanks to everyone who remembered me on my birthday and sent me cards and well-wishes. God's blessings. **Loren Kasper**

I wish to thank everyone for the birthday cards and best wishes, especially the cards sent by the school children, they were all very special. Thank you Pastor Heino for the birthday prayer, all were greatly appreciated.

Pearl Blumenschein

Mobile Version of Online Giving

St. John's offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give by credit or debit card anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader! You may also go to stjohnsmarysville.org and click on the "Electronic Giving" button and follow the easy directions.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!
AND SO IS THE...

...Hope Center
Christmas Store

Call us to schedule your appointment
for Christmas Gifts Assistance at 937-303-4209



Extra Care Sunday!

Our Stephen Ministers invite you to be *extra caring* today. Greet everyone with a smile.

Ask them how they *really* are. Give them an extra hug. Find out if there's anything you can do for them. And let's make a special effort to make St John's an extra caring place not only today, but every Sunday. If you would like more information on our

Stephen Ministry,
Doug Doellinger 937-644-0576 or
Linda Kosakowski 614-506-6179.

Weekly Church Attendance - 6 pm Saturday, 8:30 & 11 am Sunday: 9/26-9/27

Church Sanctuary: 146



MORE NOTES & NEWS ITEMS

LYF News



LYF Outing at The Maize at Little Darby Creek: LYF is heading to the corn maze and haunted house on October 16th! We will head out to The Maize at Little Darby Creek for our evening of fall fun. We'll meet at 5:30pm at the Maize. We will work our way through the corn maze, enjoy some of the farm activities there (barrel cow train anyone?!), and then end the night with the 'field of fright'. Please let Laura Zeiler know by October 15th if your youth is attending, as we need to purchase our tickets online in advance. It'll be \$5 per youth to attend, and as always, friends are welcome to join too! If any youth need a ride to the Maize, please also reach out to Laura as we can easily pick youth up on our way out. We hope to see you there!

Now is the time to register for the Ohio District Mini-Gathering! Join LYF as we head to Living Word Lutheran in Galena on **Saturday, November 21st** for a day of fellowship and fun! Keynote speaker for the event is Micah Parker, with music from the Scally Brothers Band. We will also enjoy community building as well as Bible study and breakout sessions. We'll leave from the church at noon-sharp and arrive back around 9pm that evening (dinner is included). **Deadline to register is October 23rd**, to lauraezeiler@gmail.com. Cost for each youth to attend is \$20. Eligible youth are those in 7th-12th grade. If any parents or adults would like to attend, they are welcome, too! We hope to see you there!

Soar on Wings God has Made for You

Golden Eagles

"Jesus Loves Me!"

This poignant piece was shared with me by Eileen Vollrath, a loving and faithful member of our Golden Eagles!
I hope it blesses you as much as it did me!

"Many years ago, while watching a worship service on television, I witnessed a church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired for many years. After a warm welcome, he rose from his chair and walked slowly and with great effort to the podium. He placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then slowly began to speak. "When I was asked to come and talk to you today, your pastor asked me to tell you the greatest lesson I ever learned in my 50 odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak, pain, fear, and sorrow paralyzed me...the only thing that would comfort me was this verse.

Jesus loves me this I know.

For the Bible tells me so

Little ones to him belong,

We are weak but he is strong...

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so"

When he finished, the entire church fell silent. All you could hear was the footsteps as he shuffled back to his chair."

What a powerful message! How simple life could be if only we would go to Jesus with the faith and innocence of children...thanking Him for the small joys of our everyday life...laying the burdens of our inner most fears at His feet. Instead, we often spend our days worrying and trying hopelessly to tackle all of life's challenges on our own! Jesus says in Luke 18:17, **"Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."**

Do you remember when you first learned that simple song? For me it was in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. We sang the words with such enthusiasm and love in our hearts.

NOTES & NEWS ITEMS

Golden Eagles Continued...

The words were simple and reassuring in our youth; and as we grow older, we begin to realize they apply to us in ALL stages of our lives. To that point, the article went on to introduce this newer version of the old favorites:

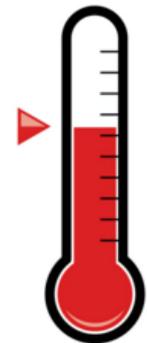
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow.
Though my site it growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him. Refrain | 2. Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go.
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way. Refrain. |
| 3. Though I am no longer young,
I have much which He's begun.
Let me serve Christ with a smile,
Go with others the extra mile. Refrain. | 4. When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear for I am near." Refrain. |
| 5. When my work on earth is done
And life's victories have been won,
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love! Refrain. | 6. I love Jesus, does He Know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day. Refrain. |

Its probably best if we don't start ACTING like children again! But we can live our life and love Jesus with that same child-like faith again...one that is believing, trusting, humble and open to His word. With the same enthusiasm and unbridled love we felt when we were children!

"Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!"

Our Concordia Mission Continues!

We appreciate your continued support of our pledge to financially contribute to the Food Co-Op at the Concordia Seminary at Fort Wayne. We give praise to God for the wonderful example set by Don Werling, and the challenge he set on our hearts to support the Seminary several years ago. The connections we have made with the Seminarians, their families and the staff at Fort Wayne has blessed us in so many ways! Their gratitude is so obvious each time we visit and they are always so appreciative of any assistance that are able to provide as they prepare to enter God's ministry.



Last year we were able to share this unique experience with our St. John's students, and the love and connections shared in that cross-generational adventure is something we will long remember! Our hope is to be able to make that a regular event. The Covid situation has affected everyone, including several means of support they usually receive. Our collection will continue for the next several weeks as we look to meeting our goal of \$2,000. We are closing in on it! Watch our progress on the collection box in the narthex. We ask for your continued prayers toward this ministry! If you have any questions, please feel free to Contact Jeff or Carol Reinhard or Mary Mayer.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

'NOTES & NEWS' Items: Weekly Schedule - Please submit articles and announcements to Regina Bullerman, Church Secretary, by calling directly at 937-240-3004, dropping them in the black lockbox outside the office doors, or emailing them to rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org, by **NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, AT NOON. Thank you.**

MORE NOTES & NEWS ITEMS



HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2021 - NOVEMBER 4th-14th

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land will forever change you and how you read the Scriptures. Each place brings to light many stories of Scripture. This is your homeland, your spiritual homeland. This Holy Land trip includes the best of the Christian guides in Israel. Pastor Jon Vollrath will serve as one of the hosts. Also, Lutheran Hour emeritus speaker, Pastor Ken Klaus, is an organizer, teacher, and devotional leader for the trip. If you ever wanted to go to the Holy Land in your life time, here is your grand opportunity. Just contact Pastor Jon Vollrath for more information. Sites include: The Sea of Galilee (and all the sites), Mount Tabor, Cana, Nazareth, Caesarea-By-The-Sea, Mount Carmel, Meggido, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Herodium, Bethany, the Dead Sea, Qumran, and Masada. If you've never been to the Holy Land, it truly is an experience that enriches one's teaching and preaching of God's Word. The organizer, Ken Klaus, started these trips to encourage pastors to go and to possibly bring their own members one day. It is just that rewarding.

If I feel that there is any safety concern for participants, I can cancel the trip up to ninety days of departure with full refunds issued.

The cost is \$4285 from Chicago. The price might increase if another airport is used. The cost includes hotel, fees for sites, breakfasts, suppers, and travel to, from, and while in Israel. And I cannot emphasize enough that the quality of the experience is largely due to the quality of the guides. Many feel jilted when they finally go and have Islamic guides who promote their own worldview of sites or aren't educated. Trans World Travel ensures the guides are faithful Christians and the best of the best. And I'll be honest, ten days isn't a lot to see everything. You'll find yourself wanting to go back to see more and more. This isn't my first time to Israel. If you are like me, you'll find yourself wanting to go back and see more. You'll want to walk on Jericho, walk through Hezekiah's water tunnel, drink the sweet water from Elisha's spring, stand on the Mount of Precipice one thousand feet above the Jezreel plain, see where David slew Goliath, see Abraham's tomb in Hebron (which is one of the few well preserved buildings of Herod), see Beth Shemesh in the Soreq valley where Samson also had many of his life stories, see death's gate at Caeserea Phillipi, draw water from Jacob's well that's 100 feet deep, etc. This trip can get you started on the basic and most popular sites, but you'll always want to see more and more.

On a side note, I praise our Lord for the strides He has made with the International Friendship Center ministry in Columbus. Thanks so much! I praise Him for you. Contact Pastor Jon Vollrath at 507-272-3104 or email pastorjonvollrath@yahoo.com

GRIEF SHARE The 4th week session is titled, "**The Journey of Grief – Part 2.**" This session helps you understand why it's important to put effort into your healing, how the events surrounding your loved one's death affect your grief, and the best ways to deal with your loved one's belongings. If you are grieving the death of a loved one, you are welcome to join us for any of the in-person sessions held on Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 pm in our **NEW location at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 7960 State Route 38, Milford Center, OH 43045.** To register, please call or text Deaconess Janet Nicol at **614-561-7411.** Due to the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus, we ask that you wear a mask (if medically possible) during the GriefShare sessions. Please stay home if you are sick or have any symptoms. Class will take place in the church Sanctuary, where proper seating distance and cleanliness is maintained.

Notes & News Publication: Printed Notes & News with Prayer list will continue to be made available for pick up in the front entryway of the school building, or you can refer to our church website at www.stjohnsmarysville.org.

Additional worship resources: *Ft. Wayne Seminary* - This is the source of the DVD's we make for our local senior living centers: <https://worshipanew.org/>

The Lutheran Hour - Devotions and Small Group: <https://www.lutheranhour.org/>

RightNowMedia - Like Netflix for Bible Studies and Christian videos. If you would like access to this site email Pastor Jack at jheino@stjohnsmarysville.org. He will send you an invite with a password to get full benefit:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Library/>

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

The following is a summary of what we believe and teach as Missouri Synod Lutheran Christians. Because we care for you, we ask that you carefully review the following statements:

1. I have been baptized into the name of the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:16-20*
2. I have been instructed concerning the meaning of Holy Communion, understand the importance of self-examination prior to coming to the Lord's Supper and have made my confirmation of faith. *1 Corinthians 11:27-29*
3. I confess that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness. I am sorry for my sins. *1 John 1:8-9*
4. I believe that Jesus Christ, God's Son, is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil. *Romans 3:21-24*
5. I believe that the body and blood of Jesus Christ are really present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and I desire to receive Christ's body and blood, given and shed for my forgiveness. *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*
6. If possible, so far as it depends on me, I seek to live peaceably with all. *Romans 12:17-19*
7. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I desire and intend to lead a more Godly and Christ-like life, trusting in God's promises and obeying His commands. *Galatians 5:22-24*

If you unreservedly agree with the seven points above, you are invited to come to the Lord's Supper. If you do not agree with one or more of the seven points, please refrain from participating in Holy Communion lest you sin against the body and blood of the Lord. If you agree with the seven points above but are not a member of St. John's, we welcome you to the Lord's Table and invite you to give prayerful consideration to joining our partnership in the Gospel. You are encouraged to speak with a pastor or elder prior to communing regarding any point(s) of disagreement and/or regarding the process of joining St. John's.

Gluten-Free Communion Wafers: A gluten-free communion wafer option is now available for those who are allergic. They are located in the brass cup in the middle of the communion plate.

Communion Wine: For those who have health related, or other issues with drinking alcohol, please take the purple individual communion cup. It contains all water with one drop of wine.

