



St. John's Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

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VOL. 88 NO. 11 MONTHLY

NOVEMBER 2015

PEANUTS FOR JOY IN HEAVEN

“I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous who need no repentance.” (Luke 15.7)

I suspect that our inability to see the joy in heaven Jesus is talking about leads us to a certain complacency when it comes to support of missions, both as individuals and as a congregation. I know it does for me. If only we could see the joy in heaven over God's work in the Czech Republic of bringing into existence a confessional Lutheran CHURCH BODY in this most atheistic of lands! (That's what the Lord has done through the work of Pr. Krikava and continues to do.) If only we could hear the angels singing over the repentance and faith of just one resident of Wittenberg, where today fewer than 15% are even Christian! (That's where the Lord is sending His Word through Kristin Lange's work.) If only we could feel and experience heaven's joy over Russians amidst the gulags of Siberia and refugees in Saratov hearing the crushing Law and life-giving Gospel, and over Lithuanians and Latvians from whom the Gospel had been ripped during Stalin's reign being baptized for the forgiveness of their sins! (That's where Pastors Furs, Panchu and Johnson are at work.)

But it's hard to get the view from heaven. In fact, like so many things that belong to us Christians, we have and know them by faith and not sight. I'm a forgiven sinner. So are you. (Romans 8:1) But can you see it? I will never die. Neither will you. (John 11.26) But can you see it, especially as your aging body tells you otherwise? I have all the riches of heaven. So do you. (2 Corinthians 8.9) But do you feel rich? And in heaven—in heaven!—there is great joy, greater than even over 99 righteous, over one sinner who repents and believes in the Lord Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. But can you see it? I can't. Neither can you.

But we don't have to. Because we know and have and participate in this joy already...through faith. It's an article of the Faith. “I believe in the Holy Spirit..., the forgiveness of sins.” It's this great joy in heaven, this great joy we have by faith in the forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus, that motivates us to support the work of our missionaries through our prayers and our gifts.

Our brothers and sisters in the mission field in Germany, the Baltics, and Russia have the enormous task of bringing the Gospel to literally millions of people who live today in spiritual poverty and death. One small way in which we shoulder their burden along with them is through our financial support. However, the five missionaries we support together require approximately \$750,000 in support. Annually. Which is much more than our congregation can bear alone.

But we aren't alone in supporting them. Instead, our fellow Lutherans in the LCMS join us in this endeavor, as we have joined those in Germany, the Baltics, and Russia. And now the enormity of the task doesn't seem so overwhelming.

In fact, our congregation supports our foreign missions at the rate of roughly \$14,500 per year. This is all outside of the budget. And yet, even that figure isn't so daunting. If each person who offers gifts to the Lord at St. John's gave just 1% more of her income to missions, our congregation could raise over

\$60,000 annually for missions. If each contributed just half a percent more of his income, we could support our missionaries with over \$30,000 per year. As it is, to meet our commitments requires only about .25% more from each of us. On average, the price of one fancy coffee per week. And that's peanuts. Peanuts for the eternal joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.



Assistant Pastor - Rev. Jon S. Bruss, ext. 104
Deaconess - Linda S. Kinnett, ext. 102
Kantor - Rev. Roger M. Goetz
Visitation Pastor - Rev. Glenn R. Bitter
Day School Teachers - Ashley Jensema, Andrea Kosmicki,

NOVEMBER VOTER'S MEETING

There will be a Voter's Meeting Sunday, November 15 at 2 p.m. in the Church Nave. Items of business will include:

1. Reports from Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Board Chairs.
2. Presentation of the Proposed 2016 Congregational Budget for voter approval.
3. Vote a Call for a Senior Pastor.

A NEW LOGO FOR ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Back in the fall of 2013, the Board of Missions and Evangelism (BOME) requested funds in the BOME budget for "electronic communications." The idea was to enhance the presence of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in modern electronic and digital media. In the winter and spring of this year, BOME commissioned a committee to address this charge. The committee has been hard at work since, primarily on the website, but also on learning and using Facebook other digital media for our congregation.

The first task the committee addressed was the website, which, useful as it was, had grown out of date in many respects. The committee is in the final stages of readying a completely new website to be launched even as you are reading this.

As the committee worked on the new site, though, it became obvious that we lacked a distinct identifying mark—a logo. After surveying our church's print publications and other media, and finding a lack of uniformity in the "look and feel" of St. John's in various graphic representations, the committee asked BOME and the church council for permission to use the funds from the BOME budget for a new logo and seal with artist Jonathan Mayer of Scapegoat Studio in Seward, Neb. (www.scapegoatstudio.com). Permission was granted.

The committee began pursuing the logo and seal project in July 2015, working with the artist and gathering feedback at various stages of the process. The new logo was finalized and approved in mid-October. The version you see is the full-color vertical logo. There will also be a full-color horizontal logo (writing to the right of the cross), as well as one-color versions of each. Jonathan Mayer is also creating a seal for official and other use by our congregation. (Continued on next page)



About the new logo

- The cross that anchors the logo is a modified St. John's cross shape, similar to the shape of our red processional cross.
- The blue color of the cross, like the blue in Luther's own "logo" (his rose), represents paradise, which belongs to us as a congregation of heirs of eternal life through water and the Word. (Tit 3:4-7)
- The circle that transects the cross represents the eternality of the entire Godhead and of Jesus Christ, "the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow." (Heb 13:8)
- Overlaid over the blue cross is a heart with a cross in the center, drawn from Luther's seal, "so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. 'For one who believes from the heart will be justified' [Rom 10:10]." (Martin Luther)
- The cross in the center of the heart also symbolizes the cross and suffering of those called by the Gospel. Although the cross laid upon Christians "mortifies and...should also cause pain," it "does not kill but keeps alive, for 'the just shall live by faith' [Rom 1:17]." (Martin Luther)
- From the cross and heart spring rose petals, also after Luther's Rose, "to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace" (Martin Luther) in the eternal promises of God in Christ. (Rom 5:1)
- The limestone color of Luther's rose reflects the color and construction of our building while also touching on the themes of permanence and fortitude. Luther's Rose, "carved in stone," captures our congregation's unswerving allegiance to God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions. (2 Tim 1:13-14)
- The unique font, which features Gothic arches in several of the letters, reflects the traditional architecture of St. John's (e.g., windows, archways).

Use of the logo is reserved for official publications of the congregation. If you have a need to use it for a purpose related to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, please contact the church office.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOTING MEMBER?

The new constitution of our congregation defines "voting member" as a communicant member who has reached the age of 18 years and been received as a voting member upon application for such privilege upon approval of the voters of the assembly. This means that, unlike in the past, communicant women age 18 and above are eligible to join the voters assembly. **We encourage all eligible St. John's members to join the voters assembly.** You can contact the office to get instructions on how you can become a voter. One reason you may wish to consider in regard to becoming a voter, is you must now be a voter to be able to vote on a call for a pastor.

YOUTH NEWS

The youth had another big group of “happy campers” who attended the Higher Things conference in Seward, Nebraska. Special thanks to the LWML for their donation of \$20 spending money to each camper and Nancy Taylor’s willingness to be a driver. Our April confirmands, who are now a part of the Sr. High group are: Cameron and Madison Ferrell, Chris Havenstein and Alex Taylor. We congratulate them on their recent confirmation and wish them God’s eternal blessings!

Pastor Bruss continues to enlighten us with interesting, fun and highly-informative Sunday morning Bible studies which covered a range of topics. We are currently studying the teachings of other churches and comparing them to scripture.

A special thanks to our faithful Golf Scramble volunteers, MR. JIM AND LINDA SIMPSON, who organized another successful golf scramble fundraiser this past June. We made \$2000 to help subsidize our trip to Higher Things and social events throughout the year. Additionally, we send a BIG THANKS to all who golfed in our event and to those who offered monetary donations. We give thanks to God for this wonderful youth group and all the people who help to make it possible!

THANKSGIVING/CHRISTMAS BASKETS & POINSETTIA DELIVERY

As we have for the past couple of years, we ask those who have traditionally brought food to instead donate to St. John’s Welfare fund. This will make it financially possible for the St. John’s to purchase a gift card for members who would have received a food basket in the past. Please make your check payable to St. John’s Lutheran Church, “**Welfare**” on the memo line.

The Crisis Response Team, under the Human Care Team and The Board of Missions, prepares and delivers meals and purchases groceries and gift certificates for members who are in need of assistance throughout the year. If you would be willing to help deliver poinsettias during the Christmas season, please contact Deaconess Linda lkinnett@stjlcms.org or call the office at 354-7132.

NOVEMBER’S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

On Sunday, November 8, between services, the usher teams of St. John’s will host the monthly breakfast. **Please bring your favorite casserole, meat dish, or anything else that we might enjoy for the morning meal.** Electrical plug-ins are available for crock pots, and the warming ovens will be ready for keeping dishes warm. If you bring something that needs to be cut (such as bread or cake), please do that ahead of time.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DAY COMMUNION SERVICE

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26 AT 9:30 A. M.

Bring your family and friends, or someone without a church home, and join us in praise and thanksgiving to God who has so richly blessed us all.

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

THANK YOU’S

The Women’s League would like to thank everyone who participated in the LWML Sunday breakfast, those who brought food and those who helped. The Sunday Mite total for LWML Sunday was \$29.00.

TLS NEWS

The staff of Topeka Lutheran School invite you to attend Topeka Lutheran Schools Open House on Sunday, November 8, 2 to 4 p.m., learn more about TLS and the benefits of a Lutheran education. You will have a chance to speak with the teachers and staff of TLS, members of the school board, and current TLS families as well as hear the students use their musical abilities throughout the afternoon. If you have any further questions, please contact Principal Francik or Admissions Counselor Lynette Chada at 357-0382. Also, Sunday, November 22 is TLS Sunday at St. John's. The TLS choir will be singing at the 11 a.m. service.

NEWS FROM DOORSTEP

The holiday season is here! The first week of November our neighbors in need who cannot afford to provide a Christmas for their families will be signing up at the Christmas Bureau. Doorstep will adopt 250 households for our Christmas Store from this sign up process. These are families and individuals who meet the federal poverty guidelines. They are working, but not making a living wage; they are disabled; they are struggling to provide the basic needs of life for their families. Within these 250 households we will provide Christmas for an average of 700 individuals and we will need your help! We need help with gifts and clothing for all ages; we need help with the purchase of the food we provide for each household; we need help with volunteers December 13th – 17th. Our Christmas Store is a unique experience and different from anything else we do at Doorstep! Please mark your calendars and watch for our flyers on specific days and times for volunteering. Doorstep's Christmas Store is possible largely due to the generosity of our member congregations and their members. Neighbors helping neighbors is what Doorstep was founded on and what we continue to do today!

FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2016 Flower Calendar will be posted by Sunday, November 1. If you would like to provide flowers for a particular service this coming year, please sign your name and phone number by the date of your choice. The calendar is located on the bulletin board outside of the church office. Someone from the church office will call to remind you that you are responsible for flowers the week preceding the service you chose.

LWML BAZAAR AND LUNCHEON

It's that time of year again. Please mark Friday, December 4, 2015 on your calendar for the St. John's LWML Bazaar and Luncheon. It's time to think about what you can bring to this event to insure we have another successful bazaar. The ticket price for an adult will be \$8.00 and \$3.00 for a child. Booths will open at 10:30 a.m. and the Luncheon is from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

In addition, we also will have one of the largest "Cookie Walks" in Topeka. The price for the cookies will be \$6.00 a pound. As in the past few years, we will be selling woodworking items, homemade craft items, gift items, paintings, quilts, etc. We will again be offering a baked goods area and the Sweet Shop.

The profit from last year was \$6,055.34 with a match from Thrivent for a total of \$7,655.34. This money was divided among 30 different local and national missions. Without the contributions from St. John's members and the participation from the general public, this would not be possible. We thank you in advance for your help. Items may be brought to church on Wednesday, December 2 and Thursday, December 3 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Additional information will be available in the Sunday bulletins. A

portion of the mites collected by St. John's LWML go towards the National LWML Mission Grants listed below:

Mission Grant #2

Disaster Relief Trailers

Grant Amount: \$80,000

LCMS Disaster Response will provide matching funds to 20 congregations to establish a disaster response equipment trailer for use in their respective districts.

Missions Grant #3

Cancer Care Packages — Phil's Friends

Grant Amount: \$50,000

To finance the cost of the care packages, which provide Christ-centered support and hope, for cancer patients across the nation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR NOVEMBER 2015

November 1:	The Crossing of the Red Sea	Exodus 13 - 15
November 8:	God Provides Manna, Water, and Quail	Exodus 16 - 17
November 15:	The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20
November 22:	Worship in the Tabernacle	Exodus 40
November 29:	The Bronze Serpent	Numbers 21: 4-9

Bible Words for November:

Early Childhood

November 1: *Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord.* Exodus 14:13

November 8: *The Lord will provide.* Genesis 22:14

November 15: *The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* John 1:17

November 22: *Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.* Psalm 107:1

November 29: *The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.* Romans 6:23

Elementary Grades

November 1: *Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord.* Exodus 14:13

November 8: *Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.* Exodus 16:12

November 15: *The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* John 1:17

November 22: *Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.* Psalm 107:1

November 29: *As Moses lifted up the serpent . . . , so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.* John. 3:14-15

Thank you, parents for bringing your children to Sunday School and church.

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Parents, this command from God’s Word is for you, and the Sunday school is here to support you in the nurture of your children’s spiritual growth. Please accept God’s invitation to bless your children through the Sunday school and worship service each week.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

“Carols of Christmas”

December 13, 2015

4:00 p.m.

Children from age three through those in the 6th grade will be leading the congregation in worship. Rehearsals take place **each Sunday morning at 9:45** in Room 204, and on **Saturday, December 12, from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**



THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

[Jesus said] “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19–20a

So that we may obtain faith in Christ, God instituted the ministry of teaching the gospel and administering the sacraments. Through the gospel and sacraments, as through means, God gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when He wills, in those who hear the gospel. The Augsburg Confession, Article 5.