

November 2020 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with God!" (Micah 6:8) That's one way scripture sums up what God requires of us. These are things we can do during these twin pandemics of Covid19, and of the climate of fear, division, and anxiety that has taken over politics and social media.

There are things we cannot (or ought not) do right now. We can't plan on big family gatherings. We can't wish the virus away. We can't bury our heads in the sand until the election and everything else blows over! But what we can do are the *right things: the things that serve our neighbor; the things that honor life and lives; the things that are good and fair.* We can demonstrate *lovingkindness*, even when others do not. And we must figure out how to do even the simplest of these gestures days when it's hard to smile through a mask, and when we're avoiding friends and strangers.

And what we can also do is *walk humbly with God and with our neighbors!* Sure, we can tell God what we want and what we *think* we and the world need now. But isn't it always about God's will being done? And about God's kingdom being front and center? Rather than ours? What might God's will be for us, for the Church, for the world through this pandemic?

I have a suggestion for walking humbly with our neighbors going forward: After the election, if you have a yard sign up, take it down! If you've been promoting your candidate/party on Facebook or Instagram, give it a rest. Some are going to be happy with the outcome next week. Some are going to be deeply disappointed. When it's done, this country doesn't need any sore losers-or sore winners! Fly the flag-by itself! Tweet things that show understanding, rather than rage. Give no voice to the conspiracy theorists. Tame your own words and attitudes around the hope and prayer that we might find a way to be "*one nation; under God; indivisible; with liberty and justice for all.*" Because that hope and prayer becomes possible, when people like you and me are willing to "Do justice. Love kindness. And walk humbly with God!"
-Pastor Paul

We Are A Learning Church! And we have learning to do! This Saturday Oct. 31 from 9-noon, St. Luke's/Waukesha is hosting a Zoom conversation on Race and Bias, with Reggie Jackson, a leader in the Black community. Reggie will no doubt invite us out of our 'comfort zone', but also into a more hopeful place. It's free. Email office@stlukeslutheran.org for the Zoom link.

Worship is happening! A small group of us is gathering with masks, Saturdays at 5pm and Sundays at 9:45, with Holy Communion. Facebook Live service continues. (And we've just made an investment in some serious video equipment to help us do this better! Watch for updates!)

What can we do to stay connected? Our health experts tell us we're in for a long, hard, stretch with Covid19, the flu season, and winter arriving. *We need good, creative, safe ways to connect folks as a church and in the community. What are your great ideas? Would you be part of a Phone-a-Friend Team? Or a card-writing team? Could we have some Soup-makers and deliverers or carryout? Anyone want to make simple 'care packages' for different age groups that could be left at someone's door? Who is willing to participate in or lead a small group study via Zoom? Do any of you tech-savvy folks have an idea for how we can do Sunday School Christmas Program virtually? What can we do for Christmas worship online or outdoors or perhaps indoors with small groups? Would you contribute a daily devotion to Facebook on a Bible verse, hymn verse, or faith practice that is helping you get through this pandemic?* Some of our usual things we can't do, but there are all kinds of new things we can try!

September 2020 - Year to Date

+YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$ 160,441 (includes PPP loan we received)

Expenses: \$ 149,051

+YTD Building Fund:

Receipts: \$ 81,049 Expenses: \$ 82,910

+YTD ELCA Benevolence:

\$ 8,590 Goal for 2020: \$15,000

+YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

\$ 5,233 Goal for 2020: \$6,000

Building Loan Balance: \$ 163,655

Thanks to everyone who has mailed in your offering, or signed up for electronic giving!

Your good giving has been a blessing during the pandemic!

Parsonage update

The parsonage has been empty this past year (and the pandemic slowed our progress on making some needed repairs and updates.) Council has a plan together, and we have a potential renter. Jenny Brandt, Tim Kiernan, and Scott Kinter are going to help manage this process. We can use some volunteers who can paint, or clean, or pull up old carpet. We think the parsonage will be habitable and safe with \$5,000-10,000 in updates. It's basically a solid, old, 1927 house, with a new roof. We've spent very little on improvements in the past 25 years. It has served 6 families well in the past 17 years since Pastor and family moved out. Thanks to everyone who is helping. And if anyone wishes to help defray those costs, please add your gift to the Building Fund.

Sunday School News!

We have Sunday School every week at 9:00 via Zoom. During the Zoom, we will cover the week- it may be in the form of a reading, a video, an experiment, or a Kahoot. Please join us when you can. There is also a family lesson posted on the church website (<https://stjohnsjackson.net/education/>) that you can do together during the week. Please email Staci with pictures as she plans to make a collage of the pictures from these activities.



If you have any fun ideas you would like us to incorporate into our Zoom, please let Staci Bohling know. (stacibohling@gmail.com) Zoom link is <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/81100438792>

Service of Remembrance

We'll gather Sunday, November 1 at 4:00 to remember those who have died in the past year and to care for those who are grieving. Please invite someone you know who is dealing with loss. We'll meet outside if the weather permits or we'll be inside with masks, for a brief service.

Family Promise Thank You!

Thank you to those who provided meals for our host week at Family Promise! They appreciate all that we can do for them during these difficult times.

Jackson Elementary Backpack Program Needs

Last year we helped out with the Backpack Program at Jackson Elementary. During the week children in need can have lunch at the school, the backpack program helps them over the weekend to continue to have proper nutrition. The school is in need of a few items to pack those backpacks! The items are: individual fruit cups, easy to make lunch options (single serve ravioli, or spaghetti with meatballs, individual ready to heat lunches ... all nonperishable, or other similar items), small individual cereal boxes and/or pop tarts. Place items at the Food Pantry shelf anytime during the week or on Sunday. Thank you for your generosity!



Poinsettia Orders

Since most of us aren't gathering for worship in person we'll be taking Poinsettia orders by phone or email. You can order a red or white poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Email Wendy at officestjohnsjackson@gmail.com or call the church office 677-3176.

December 13th will be the last day to order. The cost is \$8 each. You can send in your payment with your offering. (Write Poinsettia on the front of your offering envelope)

Food & Clothing Drive for All People's Church

Have you been wanting to clean out your closets and drawers for a while? Now is the perfect time to do so! St. John's is having a Food/Clothing drive to help the All People's Church in Milwaukee. They need non-perishable food items, clothing, (They are in need the most for adult gloves and socks, and kids/young adults coats/jackets), school supplies, library books, and even tennis balls. You can drop your donations off at St. John's on Saturday November 21st from 11-4, or Sunday, November 22nd from 11-4. Anything is appreciated, and we thank you in advance. Any questions, please contact Wendy Wolf or Danielle Piering (262-305-6473).



St. John's Veterans Group

Our next St. John's Veterans Group meeting will be Tuesday, November 10th at 9:00 am in the church basement with masks. As usual, doughnuts/sweet-rolls will be served. Please bring your own beverage. Again, please invite any of your military friends. They don't need to be members of St. John's.

Kettle Moraine Lutheran Veterans Supply Drive

Due to COVID-19, Kettle Moraine Lutheran is unable to host their annual Veterans Day Observance this year. In its place, the students are doing a service project to benefit the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative. Their National Honor Society members are leading this initiative and will be holding a food/supply drive for the entire month of November.

All are welcome to participate and drop off items during regular school hours beginning Monday, November 2 through Monday, November 30. Barrels for donations will be located at the Kettle Moraine Lutheran Main Entrance. Non-perishable food donations will be accepted as well as donations of these specific items: New bed pillows, Bath towels, Kitchen towels, Shower curtains, Shower liners, Shower rings, Cleaning supplies, Paper towels, Toilet paper.



November Anniversaries!

- Nov. 4 Peter & Tracey Jackson – 31 years
- Nov. 9 Todd & Nicole Seatz – 19 years
- Nov. 10 Rich & Sharon Boldt – 41 years
- Randy & Sharon Adametz – 30 years
- Nov. 12 Pete & Robin Kutzora – 32 years
- Nov. 15 Chuck & Sandy Turbin – 34 years
- Nov. 21 Phil & Carol Cler – 56 years
- Nov. 28 David & Linda McFadden – 61 years

If we missed your special day please let us know.

November Birthdays!

- Nov. 1 Meghan Dechant
Bella Fraley
Gale Loehrl
- Nov. 2 Kelsey Lisko
- Nov. 4 Gina Blank
Mackenzie Owens
- Nov. 5 Natalie Frank
Bob Pietenpol



November Birthdays Continued

- Nov. 7 Dave Robel
Ava Warren
- Nov. 8 Chuck Campbell
Cindy Uhlig
- Nov. 9 Cindi Hankes
- Nov. 10 Alan Christianson
- Nov. 12 Ava Rauen
- Nov. 13 Tim Brice
Scott Kinter
- Nov. 15 Bryon Fraley
Bob Luce
Nolan Mickie
Bryan Scheunemann
- Nov. 16 Alex Holt
Laura Petrovic
- Nov. 17 Eric Abel
Chad Dhein
Wendy Heidtke
Jenny Ziemer
- Nov. 18 Marion Holcomb
Don Roth
Carrie Warren
- Nov. 19 Kaden Kasubaski
Cheryl Roth
- Nov. 20 Perry Benz
Kandee Heidtke
Paige Kutzora
Deklyn Nelson
- Nov. 21 Eric Hollister
Josie Trick
- Nov. 23 Dan Johnson
Rick Tomaz
- Nov. 24 Ken Hansen
Austin Mozdzen
Greg Siegert
Carol Heider
- Nov. 25 Roger Lamberg
- Nov. 27 Gordon Kraemer
Brittany Rathke
- Nov. 28 Sommer Strnad
- Nov. 30 Ron Dhein
McCain Goodman

St. John's Lutheran Church
2881 Division Rd.
Jackson, WI 53037

At St. John's we're privileged and challenged to *Welcome, Worship, and Witness* in Christ's name. Thank you for being part of this faith community and for the serving you do to the glory of God!

Visit us at www.stjohnsjackson.net

Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/stjohnsjackson

Pastor Paul Mittermaier – pastorcarguy@gmail.com

Office hours: M-F 9:00am-1:00pm 262-677-3176

officestjohnsjackson@gmail.com

Worship Services: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 9:45 am

Holy Communion is celebrated every weekend.

