

September 2021 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you...hold fast to what is good! 1 Thess. 5

This is Paul's summary admonition to the Christian community at Thessalonica, 2000 years ago! I can't think of a much better way to head into an uncertain autumn season!

Rejoice always=has the root word of 'joy' in it. Whatever is going on in our lives or in the world, the joy of the Lord is still ours. It has nothing to do with the weather, the state of the economy, or how the Packers are doing! It has everything to do with knowing God is God, God is good, and we belong to God, and we get to serve God! Rejoicing is always an option; always an act of faith!

Pray without ceasing=This is not suggesting we have our heads bowed in prayer 24/7, and do nothing else! This is more like throughout the day, we have a running conversation with God, our Maker; with Jesus, our Teacher & Friend, with the Holy Spirit, our Guide. Our continuous prayers remind us to ask for help, to offer praise, to lift up the needs of those around us, to respond to what we hear and see on the news. We pray, trusting that God hears, and that our praying will help us seek and do God's will!

Give thanks in all circumstances?=Is that possible? When I have a migraine? When the kids are sick? When my job sucks? When the world seems to be going to hell in a handbasket? One of the gifts of 'gratitude' is that it helps us see God's love leading and supporting us. We don't give thanks for hurricanes and floods, but we give thanks for rescuers and helpers. We don't thank God for this pandemic, but we thank God for essential workers, medical staff, and vaccine inventors! As we find something to be thankful for in each day's challenges and opportunities, we affirm that God's goodness is greater than the world's troubles, and that God's abundance is greater than whatever we lack.

We enter into another uncertain season not sure of what will be under our control and what will not be. But we can enter into this month rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks! And every idea you have for how we can rejoice, pray and give thanks together will help us figure out how to "Be Church Together" this fall, too! -Pastor Paul

What's happening with Sunday School this fall?

Our Education Team knows that even pre-pandemic, in-person Sunday School worked for some families, and not so much for others. And this past year, Zoom Sunday School worked for some, not all. So we'd like to try a different approach this fall:

- 1. We'll meet in person, with parents, the First Sunday of the month at 9:00 for a whole-group Sunday School, introducing a theme for the month, and projects/crafts/lessons to work on at home.*
- 2. We'll repeat that on that Wednesday evening (after the first Sunday, so October 3 at 9:00 and October 6 at 6:30 with a simple supper!) so we can perhaps reach those who were unable to attend on Sunday.*
- 3. We'll follow up the other Sundays with Zoom Sunday School
More details to come on September 12, at the Pancake Breakfast at 9am! And yes, invite neighbors and friends! We welcome parents and grandparents too!*
- 4. We're planning a Pet Blessing for Sunday School on Oct. 3 at 9am!*

July 2021 - Year to Date

+YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$ 131,216

Expenses: \$ 116,860

Thank you for your regular offerings and to those who have signed up for electronic giving.

+YTD Building Fund:

Receipts: \$ 74,520 Expenses: \$ 67,716

+YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

\$ 3,535 Goal for 2021: \$6,000

+YTD ELCA Benevolence:

\$ 12,115 Goal for 2021: \$15,000

Building Loan Balance: \$ 81,399

Church Picnic

The church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 19th. We'll have one service at 9:45 followed by lunch, games, fun & fellowship. Bring a dish to pass if you're able. We need help with setup and takedown, kitchen help, and people to sell tickets and manage the basket raffle. Sign-ups are located on the desk in the Gathering Space, or contact Wendy 262-677-3176.

We're looking for gift baskets of all sorts – Gardening, movie, kid's games, baby, wine/cheese, etc. Baskets must be delivered to church no later than Friday, September 10th at noon. One half of all proceeds will be given to the Good Samaritan fund and one half to our missionaries.

St. John's Veterans Group

Our next St. John's Veteran's Group Meeting will be held on Tuesday September 14th at 9:00am in Church (either inside or outside depending on the weather). We encourage both St. John's members and non-members to attend our meetings. So bring a friend, neighbor, relative, etc. This is a great way to get together and share our experiences with other Veterans'.

Outreach for Hope 2021 Ride Run Walk

Join us on Saturday, September 25 for the Outreach for Hope 2021 Ride Run Walk, and help raise \$150K for grants to central city congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod!

Visit OFHRRW.org to register to participate at one of our event sites (each site offers a walk, and road and trail rides unless otherwise noted): Dan Johnson is heading up a team for St. John's at Ozaukee County: Grafton/Ozaukee Interurban Trail and county roads. There are other locations as well as a Virtual Only: Ride, run, walk, and/or fundraise on your own schedule (7/15 - 9/25)

Use this link to donate to the team or register to ride/walk.

<https://outreachforhope.salsalabs.org/ofhrrw2021/t/stjohnslutheranjacksondanjohnson/index.html>

Volunteers are also needed! Visit tinyurl.com/OFHRRWvolunteer or call us at 414-671-1212 to learn more and sign up.

More News

Congrats to Seaman Apprentice Ben Brandt who has completed basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Station. Ben is heading to Pensacola for training as an aircraft mechanic. We'll get you his address when he gets settled!

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services has a good and long track record of helping resettle refugees. They are deeply involved in assisting Afghan refugees. Gifts to them will help real people, right now! Give at www.lirs.org or mark your church offering, and we'll forward your gift!

ELCA Disaster Response is one of the best ways to help people in Haiti, and hurricane and disaster victims. Again, give directly or through your church offering, here! www.elca.org/disaster Thank you!

Confirmation Classes for 7th & 8th graders starts on Wednesday Sept. 15. (Pastor will be in touch regarding exact time...likely 7pm). Parents are asked to attend! Also, think about a friend or neighbor in 7th or 8th grade who might like to try out this group! We've gained some wonderful students over the years because of a simple invitation!

Getting to Know You!

Each month we'll feature a St. John's member so we can get to know each other better.

Getting to Know You: **Michael Novotny**

Talk about a room with a view! Michael's involvement and leadership positions with St. John's Youth Group throughout his high school years led him to work the past three summers at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, based out of Fort Collins in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, where he has been a backpacking guide. Michael has some keen observations about leading – literally and spiritually – the youth who participate in the weeklong programs:

"The kids differ from group to group, but by the end of the week they usually all have a pretty great attitude. It's weird noticing that dynamic of how a week at camp can change their outlook on life and the way they interact with the world. That was a huge reason why I wanted to work there." Heavy stuff. But not as heavy as the backpack he carries on the job. Typically 40 pounds, on his first trip it was 55. Was he carrying the weight of the world? Did he learn in a hurry to pare it down? No to both. Just the recipient of a little prank by the offsite coordinator who placed a trailer hitch in Michael's pack, which he didn't notice until reaching basecamp. And it was all uphill from there.



Michael's view changes just a little when he's back in Wisco attending UW-Milwaukee, where he's currently working on getting his bachelor's degree in history, and mindful about graduating and what path he'll go down next in life. Like at camp, the sky's the limit!

"Fun" Facts

- There's a cardboard cutout of Michael at UWM-Washington County because of the work he has done there.
- "It isn't the mountain ahead that wears you out; it's the grain of sand in your shoe." – Robert W. Service [Or a blister – just one during Michael's three summers at Sky Ranch, no thanks to his boots giving out.]
- In between working and studying, Michael enjoys playing the drums and guitar, and watching sports, as well as being an active participant in the obvious: backpacking and hiking.
- Aside from living at camp and on a mountain, Michael has lived in West Bend his entire life, where he graduated from East High School. His nuclear family includes dad Scott, mom Mary, little sister Amanda, cat Molly, collie Lacey, and two unnamed house plants.

Called to Serve

Readers

(8:00 Service)

9/5 Brennan Family
9/12 Laura Bartelt
9/19 One Service
9/26 Jackie Gauger

(9:45 Service)

9/5 Reuben Heidtke
9/12 Scott Dechant
9/19 Sharon Boldt
9/26 Susan Heidtke

Ushers

(8:00 Service)

9/5 Brennan Family
9/12 Skip Bartelt
9/19 One Service
9/26 Mary Bukovic

(9:45 Service)

9/5 Kelly Strnad
9/12 Keith Heidtke
9/19 Dave Williams
9/26 Duane Plath



September Anniversaries!

Sept. 2 Lucas & Nicole Lemberger – 4 years
Sept. 3 Jim & Amy Meyers – 27 years
Sept. 5 Britton & Katie Schott – 6 years
Sept. 8 Matt & Rebecca Hauser – 3 years
Sept. 9 Dick & Karen Uhlig – 54 years
Sept. 10 Shad & Kristy Young – 16 years
Sept. 11 Dennis & Carol Heider – 56 years
Mike & Keri Kraus – 28 years
Sept. 13 Rick & Gale Loehrl – 41 years
Sept. 14 Dave & Jean Gardipee – 30 years
Mike & Jenny Starzman – 25 years
Sept. 15 Roger & Donna Lamberg – 60 years
Eric & Jennifer Olafsson – 20 years
Sept. 16 George & Dianne Liberatore – 49 years
Sept. 17 Ken & Kären Keel – 61 years
Paul & Katie Ziemer – 5 years
Sept. 20 Hank & Eileen Dieringer – 63 years
Rich & Cindy Uhlig – 13 years
Sept. 23 Vince & Nicole Dueno – 21 years
Sept. 24 Scott & Pam Adams – 38 years
Charlie & Kristin Jones – 5 years
Sept. 27 Dan & Eileen Mack – 24 years
Sept. 29 Aaron & Tracy Weninger – 9 years
Kyle & Jennifer Binversie – 9 years
Sept. 30 Roy & Mary Glocke – 49 years
Scott & Beth DeChant – 26 years

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Sept. 1 Chace Stockhausen
Sept. 2 Judy Durr
Sept. 3 Steve Henrichs
Elizabeth Kison
Sept. 4 Kaycee Binversie
Becky Ziemer
Jack Stern

If we missed your special day please let us know.

Sept. 5 Paul Mittermaier
Sept. 6 Ron Jonas
Ashlyn Muller
Angela Pickart
Sept. 7 Bruce Beuscher
Beth Dechant
Terry Legate
Jennifer Olafsson
Amy Reid
Dorothy Slatter
Sept. 8 Lisa Brennan
Butch Callum
Eileen Dieringer
Chris Guslick
Rick Guslick
Geraldine Michalski
Sept. 9 Mark Dalton
Alaina Staller
Sept. 10 Debbie Gramza
Sept. 12 David McFadden
Sept. 13 Gary Kielisch
Joe Liberatore
Jack Lippold
Sept. 14 Tracey Corlett
Sept. 15 Emmaline Guslick
Sept. 16 Terry Christopherson
Sept. 19 Brittany Stockhausen
Jeff Warren
Sept. 20 Scott Reid
Sept. 21 Barb Jonas
Ann Radloff
Sept. 22 Kaylee Brice
Joel Heidtke
Ed Holcomb
Maryrose Leist
Sept. 24 Scott Anders
Warren Scheunemann
Sept. 25 Larry Hillyer
Sept. 26 Garry Basing
Sept. 27 Jackie Dhein
Duane Plath
Sept. 28 Peter Jackson
Sept. 29 Jessica Frank
Karen Kraemer
Lindsey Stern
Arleen Ziemer
Sept. 30 Barbara Hillyer
Bonnie Puestow

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 5:00 pm & Sunday 8 & 9:45 am with Holy Communion
Facebook Live at 9:45 am on Sunday

