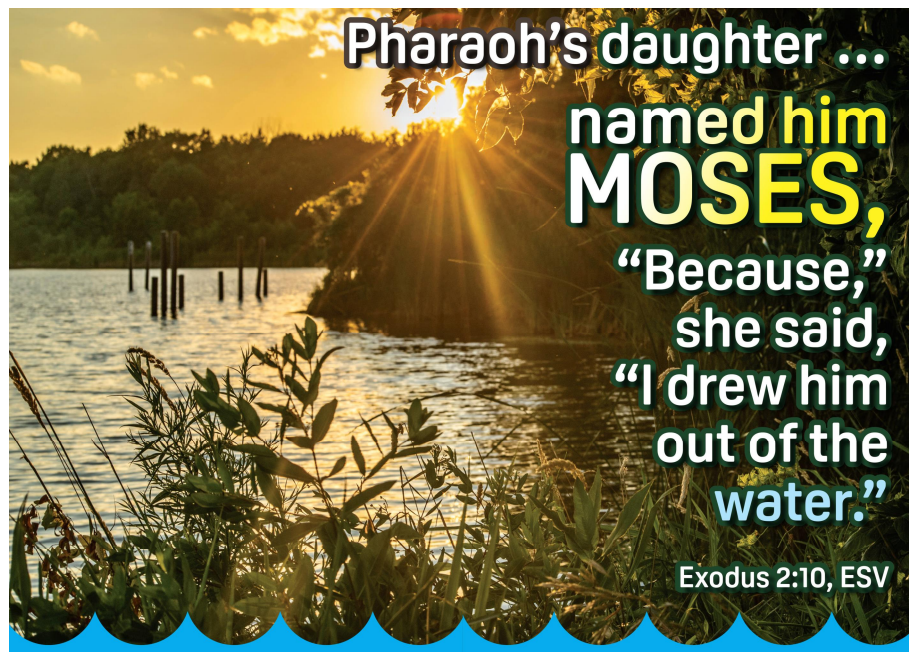


St. John's Epistle

August 2023

A Newsletter of

St. John's Lutheran Church—LCMS
515 College Ave. W. Ladysmith, WI 54848
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<http://www.stjohnsladysmith.org>





“But what does it say? ‘The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (That is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in Your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:8-9)

People talk about the Word so much that many times they forget how fabulous it is. Bibles sit on coffee tables and in our book cases. We have Bible Studies at church. Devotion books have God’s Word written in them! Even during worship, the liturgy found in the Lutheran Service Book is God’s Word. All you have to do is look to the right of the liturgy and you will see what part of God’s Word you are speaking. We use it so much that sometimes we just take it for granted!

The Apostle Paul wrote, **“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)”** (Romans 10:8- Partly quoted from Deuteronomy 30:14). To help understand what Paul was speaking about, we only need to look to Luther’s Small Catechism. Luther wrote, “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.” (LSC p.17) Here lies the gift of the Word. The Holy Spirit works in us through the Word. The Holy Spirit actually comes to us through the Word and gives us faith to believe in Jesus Christ. When the gospel Word is read, when it is preached, the Holy Spirit works and brings faith to people. R. C. H Lenski said it this way, “The Word, the Word uttered, is the great medium; and being gospel-Word and not command, faith is its reception, and unbelief, sad to say, its rejection. (Interpretation of Romans, P. 654)

The Holy Spirit works through the Word. The Holy Spirit gives faith so people can believe the promises of God, and understand that Jesus is their Savior. And because this comes as

a free gift you are able to, “**confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**” (Romans 10:9) In other words, because of God’s grace and mercy you will be able to spend eternity in heaven.

All Glory be to God that we have been given faith to believe in our incredible Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This couldn’t be said any better than a four year old, who said last week at Vacation Bible School, “Thank You Jesus!” Those are words we should never forget! Amen.

In His service,

Pastor Craig S. Zandi



Notification of Pastor When in the Hospital

There has been some confusion when people check in or go to the hospital. The hospital will **not automatically** inform your church, or pastor, that you are there unless it is specifically stated in your records. Furthermore, inform your family members to call your pastor. They can also contact the chaplain’s office at the hospital and give them the information. Again, don’t assume the hospital will do it, because they won’t. You must be proactive to make sure your pastor is informed if you want him to come see you. Many times people are in the hospital and he has no idea they are there.

ASSISTING FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Acolytes: *Ushers*

Altar Guild: *Kim Grabowski*

Finance: *Karen Kmosena & Sally Schar*

Worship Assistants for August

- | | |
|--|---|
| Sunday, August 6
<i>Caring & Sharing</i> | Elder: Ray Tousey
Greeters: Diane & Jim Rodd
Ushers: <u>Team 2</u>: Dave Kmosena- Captain,
Terry Schar, Mike Kuchta, Jim Rodd,
Lee Purdy |
| Sunday, August 13
<i>Caring & Sharing</i> | Elder: Darrell Kuchta
Greeters: Gil & Jean Johnson
Ushers: <u>Team 3</u>: Dennis Flater-Captain,
Bob Hauser, Alden Hook, Ray Tousey,
Kurt Harris |
| Sunday, August 20
<i>LWML</i>
<i>Mites In</i>
<i>Gathering</i> | Elder: Randy Scott
Greeters: Dave & Dawn Scott
Ushers: <u>Team 4</u>: Chuck Perenchio-Captain,
Sam Barg, Dave Werner, John Monnier,
Gene Zillmer |
| Sunday, August 27
<i>Stewardship</i> | Elder: Sam Barg
Greeters: Tom & Nancy Rosolowski
Ushers: <u>Team 5</u>: Jim Kuchta-Captain,
Gary Drohman, Don Josi, Dave Thompson,
Russ Thompson |



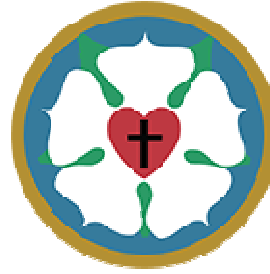
Join your friends at St. John's

Campfire Devotions

Wednesday, August 30th at 7pm

*Come sit around the campfire with friends,
join in singing songs and enjoy some delicious
campfire treats*

EVERYONE is WELCOME



What Luther says:

At the same time, since the faith that justifies always sanctifies as well, it is equally true that those who are saved are not without good works, the Doctor once told Melanchthon in a discussion which the two had in 1536 on the article of justification.

It is not true that works bring about or receive salvation; but it is indeed true that they are present with the faith which receives righteousness, just as I need to be present for my salvation. *ō*I, too, shall be present, *ø*said the fellow who was about to be hanged, while other people were flocking and running to the gallows.

At about the same time there was a discussion of this vital subject among the reformers at Wittenberg. In the course of it Luther made the following statement.

What Augustine says is indeed true: He who has created you without yourself will not save you without yourself. Works are necessary for salvation, but they do not cause salvation: for faith alone gives life. For the sake of hypocrites it should be said that good works are necessary for salvation. Works must be done, but it does not follow from this that works save. Works save externally, that is, they testify that we are just and that in a man there is that faith which saved him internally, as Paul says: *ō*With the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

JOYFUL RESPONSE

JOYFUL Response (e-giving program) is run through VANCO and LCEF. It is now available for use by St. John's members, free of charge to you, as long as the money is taken out of your bank account (no credit cards). This account is for General Operating offerings only, no designated funds. The information and application to enroll are on St. John's website (www.stjohnsladysmith.org). As the Financial Secretary of St. John's, Nancy is the contact person for this program. An account has been set up at LCEF for your offerings to be deposited. Nancy will receive a statement when your offering is received at LCEF so she can enter it on your St. John's offering account. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy.



Submit Your Information!

ITEMS FOR BULLETINS are due on Tuesday by close of day each week (unless indicated otherwise in bulletins due to holidays). *Newsletter items are due* in the office no later than close of day on the Tuesday preceding the last Sunday of the month.

E-mail to: stjohnladysmith@centurylink.net (preferred method).

Don't forget that **LARGE PRINT** bulletins and newsletters are available for those who need them. **Contact the office to get your name on the list!**



August 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Everything is subject to change. Please check our website (www.stjohnsladysmith.org), Facebook. and/or phone the Church office 715-532-5780.						
		1	2 11:30AM Evangelism/Stewardship	3 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant	4	5
	St John's Volunteers serve meals at the Senior Center Meal Site this week					
6 8:00AM Finance 9:00AM Worship <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 11:15 Elder meeting	7 11:30AM Ladies Birthday Luncheon	8	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Caring and Sharing</i> 9:00AM Worship +HC <i>Bible Study after worship</i>	14 6:00PM LWML Bible Study	15 1:00PM FAPQG 6:00PM BOCE/YM	16	17 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant	18	19
20 <i>LWML Mites Ingathering</i> 9:00AM Worship <i>Bible Study after worship</i>	21	22 NEWSLETTER ITEMS ARE DUE TODAY	23	24	25	26
27 <i>Stewardship Sunday</i> 9:00AM Worship +HC <i>Bible Study after worship</i>	28	29	30 7:00PM Campfire Devotions	31 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant		

**The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Newsletter Article –
August 2023**

Define Your Life by How You Give

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives – our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others,” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

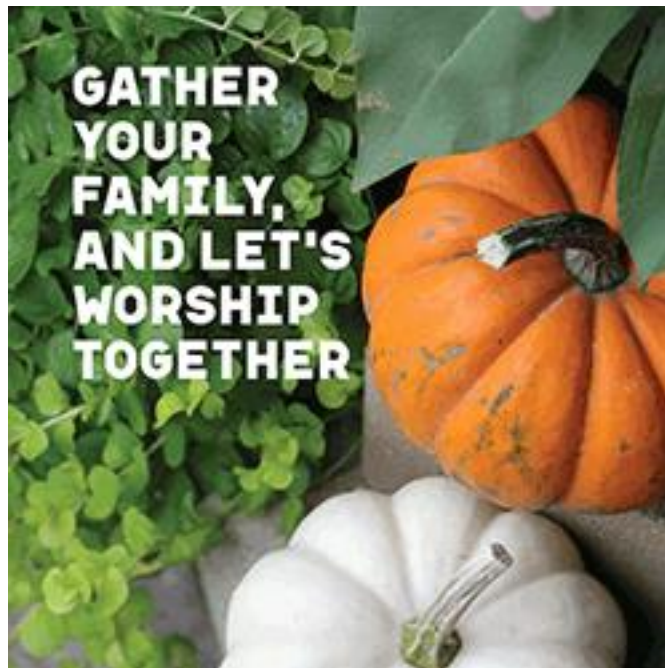
But when we give, we do not have less, we do not become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

A Historical Item From Past Bulletins

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now, " he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving them."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote the clincher, "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals, but for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire meal for a single one. But, I do know this, they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today."

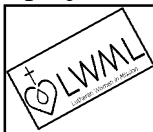




2023–2025 Mission Grants

Orphan Grain Train Servant Center — Orphan Grain Train, U.S. \$100,000

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) has carried out the mission of the Lord for thirty years by providing humanitarian service. They work through the church so the Gospel always accompanies their service. They have assisted orphans, carried out domestic disaster relief, gathered, sorted, packed, and distributed food, clothing, medical supplies, equipment, and educational materials for those experiencing poverty in the U.S. and internationally. The original facility in Norfolk, Nebraska, is outdated and lacking adequate space to carry out their expanding work. They need to build an additional facility to increase their mission capacity and increase the safety level for volunteers. With an increased work area, larger groups of volunteers can work on donations received and the output of mercy meals can double to 10,000,000 meals annually. This grant will help OGT complete their building project.



The ladies Bible study will meet on August 14, 2023, at 6 pm. The Bible study will be "Be Assured". Newcomers are always welcome. Copies of the Bible Study are available in the LWML mailbox in the lower right hand corner of the mailboxes. Please join us.



**The *Next* Caring and Sharing Sunday
is **August 13th****

**This is your opportunity to show you care
for the hungry in our community by making a donation
to the Hope Food Pantry or show your concern
for the hungry children in our community by making
a donation to the
Back Pack Program.**



Mites are collected on the third Sunday of each month! Simply deposit your donation in the large mite box when you come to worship. These mites continue to fund district and national mission projects. Check the LWML bulletin board for details on some of those projects. Please let Amy Tousey or Paula Hook know if you have any questions.

Rada Knives

If you are interested in purchasing Rada Knives, please contact Lorraine Flohr at 715-532-5095

All proceeds go to the St. John's Ladies Aid.

Orders are processed quickly! *They make great Christmas and wedding gifts.*

Ladies! Birthday lunches aren't just for birthdays; of course birthdays for the month are celebrated, but also it gives us an informal excuse to get together with our sisters in Christ to form bonds and friendships.

No invitation needed!

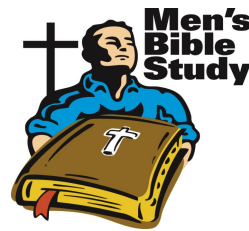


Birthday Mondays!

Monday, **August 7th** at 11:30 a.m. at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant.

All are welcome!

Men's Bible Study will be on Thursday, **Aug 3rd, 17th & 31st**; 7:00AM at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant.



ONGOING COLLECTIONS

- ◆ Aluminum cans for Preschool
- ◆ Canceled Stamps (LWML)
- ◆ Greeting cards
- ◆ Used eye glasses
- ◆ Soft eyeglass cases



Please, leave only aluminum cans! We cannot take aluminum foil, plates, etc.; aluminum cans only! Thanks for your assistance.

1	Clara Pask
3	Kenzie Scott
4	Dave Kuchta, Aubree Moore
5	Ralph Witt
6	Marilyn Baker
7	Sirianna Basham
10	Luella Flater
12	Elsie Thummel
13	Bob Kuchta
14	Dawn Scott, Wendy Zehner
15	Dani Lodahl,
16	Jean Johnson
18	Nathan Hauser, Jim Rodd
21	Kurt Harris
22	David Canfield, Stef Harris
23	Pamela Kibellus
24	Mary Ann Van Treese
25	Ashli Srmek
26	Russ Thompson
27	Todd Berry, Valerie Zunker
28	Joshua Purdy-Zimmer, Peyton Rodd
30	Helen Patrick
31	Carol Schindler



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

4	Don & Dianna Josi
4	Nick & Andrea Wilson
7	Gary & Deb Drohman
9	Nick & Martha Basham
12	John & Sue Monnier
13	Bob & Helen Patrick
18	Jim & Diane Rodd
18	Harold & Elsie Thummel
24	Ray & Amy Tousey
25	Craig & Janice Zandi
26	Mark & Judy Van Wey
29	Dave & Connie Thompson



Creator of the stars

The stars and sky testify to God's amazing power and creativity.

Directions: Use the clues and Bible passages to fill in the blanks. Then transfer the circled letters (in order) to the spaces below to complete a verse of praise.

God determines this and calls each star by name. (*Psalms 147:4*)

○ _ _ _ _ _

The heavens are the work of God's what? (*Psalms 8:3*)

_ _ _ ○ _ _ _

What does God bring out one by one? (*Isaiah 40:26*)

_ ○ _ _ _

God made two great lights to do this. (*Genesis 1:16*)

○ _ _ _ ○ _ _

God promised Abraham this would be like the stars. (*Genesis 15:5*)

_ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _

The sun, moon and stars have this. (*1 Corinthians 15:41*)

_ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _

The lights in the sky serve as what? (*Genesis 1:14*)

_ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _

The heave__s declare the __lory __f __od;
the ski__s __roc__aim the wo__k of his ha__ds.

PSALM 19:1, NIV

Answer: number, fingers, host, govern, offspring, splendor, signs; The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1, NIV