

St. John's Epistle

July 2023

A Newsletter of

St. John's Lutheran Church—LCMS
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Operation Repo

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

The T.V. show “Operation Repo”, whose tagline is “it ain’t no joke, if you don’t pay that note,” chronicles the repossession of cars, trucks, motorcycles, dirt bikes and boats in Southern California. Those items are taken from a person who thinks they own them. The truth is they are actually owned by the person who borrowed them the money. As the “repo man” comes to claim the unpaid items, the people can’t believe they can take their stuff. Our spiritual life is the same. Someday we will have to give an account for our sin. Yet, can we do enough by ourselves to pay the debt?

Many people think they are free to make their own decisions about God, yet that is not true. Our decision making is bound by sin, the devil, and the world; the same things that keep us from true forgiveness. We are slaves to those things. In the gospels we read of afflicted people who Jesus freed from demonic possession. In the region of Gerasenes, Jesus ordered an evil spirit out of a man. This person recognized his new Lord and begged for the privilege of following Him. This was a man repossessed. His mission from that time forth was to tell the world about the great things Jesus did for him.

It’s unlikely that any of you have had such a transition, yet make no mistake about it; people are either of the devil or God. Peter wrote, **“Be sober minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”** (1 Peter 5:8) There is no in between.

Before our Baptism into Christ, we were owned by the devil. In Holy Baptism we were asked, "Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?" Through our god parents, our parents, or ourselves we replied that we do renounce the devil! It was through the water and the word that we came under a new owner; the Lord Jesus Christ. God brought us into His family. God did the work. "Operation Repo" became a life giving reality. We became children of God!

Such repossession is of the greatest significance for Christians. We are no longer slaves to sin. We have been given faith to believe in Jesus Christ. We are repossessed people. Bought, purchased, and won through the precious blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are His and are free to worship and praise Him forever. Amen.

In Christ,

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 JULY

Acolytes: *Ushers*

Altar Guild: Donna Howard & Mary Ann Riegel

Finance: *Karen Kmosena & Sally Schar*

Worship Assistants for July

Sunday, July 2	Elder: Ray Tousey
	Greeters: Hauser Family
	Ushers: <u>Team 2</u>: Dave Kmosena- Captain, Terry Schar, Mike Kuchta, Jim Rodd, Lee Purdy
Sunday, Jul 9	Elder: Sam Barg
<i>Caring & Sharing</i>	Greeters: Marty Shimko
	Ushers: <u>Team 3</u>: Dennis Flater-Captain, Bob Hauser, Alden Hook, Ray Tousey, Kurt Harris
Sunday, Jul 16	Elder: Tom Rosolowski
<i>LWML</i>	Greeters: Randy & Marj Scott
<i>Mites In</i>	Ushers: <u>Team 4</u>: Chuck Perenchio-Captain, Sam Barg, Dave Werner, John Monnier,
<i>Gathering</i>	Gene Zillmer
Sunday, Jul 23	Elder: Darrell Kuchta
<i>Stewardship</i>	Greeters: Sharon & Lindsey Elton
	Ushers: <u>Team 5</u>: Jim Kuchta-Captain, Gary Drohman, Don Josi, Dave Thompson, Russ Thompson
Sunday, July 30	Elder: Randy Scott
	Greeters: Amy & Ray Tousey
	Ushers: <u>Team 1</u>: Dave Scott-Captain, Dave Kuchta, Tom Rosolowski, Vic Plockelman, Stu Pask



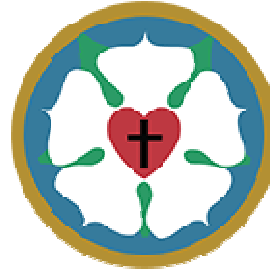
Join your friends at St. John's

Campfire Devotions

Wednesday, July 26th 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,

Yes, and Someone who is in complete control of all that happens to me. In an expository sermon of July 22, 1531, on John 7:30-3, Luther says that all the powers of darkness could not harm Christ before his hour had come. From this he concludes that our security also rests in the hands of God. And it had better rest there, he adds; for the devil has deadly designs on us.

At all hours the devil is seeking to kill us all. After you have been baptized, he will not let you have any rest. If he could kill you in your mother's body, he would do it. He is not satisfied to let us have one kernel of grain on the field, one fish or piece of bread, or anything good. Far less does he spare us who are exposing his shame, who rebuke him to his face, and preach that we should-God's grace and the works of the devil. He would rather break my neck in a moment than let me stand here and preach and storm his kingdom. (WLS p. 398)

To this nearness of the devil, especially to the believer, Luther also called attention in another sermon for St. Michael's Day (1530), on Matthew 18:1-12. Many, he says here, who do believe in the existence of the devil imagine him to be far away. Such folk cannot appreciate the need and the aid of the good angels, who help to defend us against the power of darkness.

A Christian should know that he is sitting among devils and that the devil is closer to him than his coat or shirt, nay, closer than his own skin. He should know that the devil is about us everywhere; he and we are constantly in one another's hair, and we must fight with him, testifies the proverb: It is not necessary to draw a picture of the devil over the door. The first thing, then, is to hold firmly that the devil exists and that he is much closer to us than the shirt on our body. (WLS p.399)

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!**





Thank you to all the members of St. John's who contributed to the Lutheran Women in Mission Gifts from the Heart.

Especially we would like to thank the Sunday School teachers and children for their contributions.

We took all of these gifts to the LWML Convention in Milwaukee to be sent to Phil's Friends. The gifts were the following:

- 15 blankets
- 90 hats
- 15 decks of cards
- 19 journals
- 29 puzzle books
- 6 Biotene Mouthwash
- 10 toothbrushes
- 11 tooth paste
- 6 hand cream
- 8 \$10.00 gift card to Wal-Mart

We had also collected 10 pairs of eyeglasses and 435 soft eyeglass cases which were taken to convention to be sent to MOST Ministries.

Thank you so much for your support in this mission outreach..

**The Board of Christian
Education is sponsoring...**



Monday, July 24 from 4pm – 7pm

COST: \$45.00

**Sign-up sheet is located in the
fellowship hall**



Questions - Contact Shelley Barg 715-415-0588

July 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 9:00AM Worship <i>Bible Study after worship</i>	3 11:30AM Ladies Birthday Luncheon	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant	7	8
9 <i>Caring and Sharing</i> 9:00AM Worship +HC <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 11:15 Elder meeting	10 6:00PM LWML Bible Study	11 <i>VBS 8:00-3:30PM</i>	12	13	14	15
16 <i>LWML Mites Ingathering</i> 9:00AM Worship <i>Bible Study after worship</i>	17	18 6:00PM Council	19	20 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant	21	22
23 <i>Stewardship Sunday</i> 9:00AM Worship +HC <i>Bible Study after worship</i>	24 4:00-7:00PM CPR Training	25 NEWSLETTER ITEMS ARE DUE TODAY	26 7:00PM Campfire Devotions	27	28	29
30 9:00AM Worship <i>Voters meeting after worship</i>	31					
St John's Volunteers serve meals at the Senior Center Meal Site this week						

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry ó
July 2023

Go í Sell All You Have?

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18-22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, “No!” But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. But that doesn’t excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family. The needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things. This is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What's more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.



At *God's Living Water* VBS, we will hear God's Promise of Salvation. He leads us to the treasure of eternal life

Tuesday, July 11th

8:00am – 3:30pm

*Tell your friends - Tell your family – Tell everyone you meet!
We do not want anyone to miss this exciting exploration
through God's Word*

Registration Forms are available in the Fellowship Hall and in the
Church Office

If you are interested in helping with VBS, please see the sign-up sheet located in the fellowship hall

Lutheran Women in Mission are the Lutheran Women's Missionary League

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is also widely known as Lutheran Women in Mission. We often receive inquiries as to which is our official name. It has been found that many women in our congregations do not know what the acronym LWML means. It has also been noted that the word "league" is considered outdated, and we know that Lutheran Women in Mission fulfill a vital and relevant need in today's world.



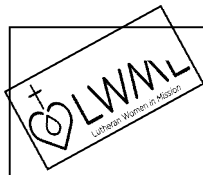
This is not a new concept. Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) has been known as Lutheran Women in Mission for over 25 years.

In 1975, we were officially incorporated in the state of Missouri as the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). Since 1998, our registered Doing Business As (DBA) trade name has been Lutheran Women in Mission. Our organization uses these two names interchangeably.

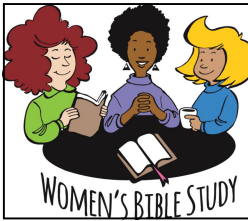
For decades, to describe what the LWML was and did, leaders often used the phrase, "Lutheran Women in Mission." In her address to the 1997 LWML Charlotte Convention, Past LWML President Gloria Edwards (1995-1999) mentioned that perhaps it was time to consider a new name "more appealing to those not already involved." In her President's Page article in the Winter 1998 Lutheran Woman's Quarterly magazine, Gloria stated, "Remember, we've added this name so that those on the outside can understand who we are and what we do. And, perhaps, choose to participate with us." Gloria asked, "What's in that name? It says who we are and what we do. We are Lutheran. We are Women. We are actively involved - we're in Mission. It indicates that each one of us is committed to using our God-given

gifts in service to the people of the world.ö (Source: Moberg, Marlys Taege. Women in League With the Lord: The Story of Lutheran Women in Mission and Their Christian Predecessors. Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 2005.)

The title, Lutheran Women in Mission, is a testament to our unwavering dedication to mission education, mission inspiration, mission service, and mission giving. Lutheran Women in Mission will be used consistently in future resources. Lutheran Women in Mission is a name that is reflective of our fundamental principles and convictions, as well as the global network of volunteers who joyfully serve the Lord side-by-side



Monday, July 10. 2023, 6pm Ladies Bible study
 "Proclaiming Christ Simply and with
 Urgency". All the women of
 the congregation are invited to attend. If you
 would like a copy of the Bible study it is
 found in the LWML mailbox. The LWML
 mailbox is located in the lower right hand
 corner of the mailboxes.



Bible Study-LWML-Zone 4

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church; Prentice, WI

When: Wednesday at 1:00 PM

Question: Mary Scharenbrock ; 715-826-0160

**The *Next* Caring and Sharing Sunday
is **July 9th****

**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!

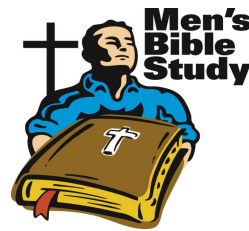


Birthday Mondays!

Monday, **July 3rd** at 11:30 a.m. at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant.

All are welcome!

Men's Bible Study will be on Thursday, **July 6th & 20th;** 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.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

1	Isaac Srnek
4	Kathy Boehmer, Lorraine Flohr
6	Dave Kmosena
9	Tom Rosolowski
11	Ken Webster
13	Arin Pask
15	Evan Holman, Darrell Kuchta
18	Ken Baars
19	Alliegha Shirley
22	Isaiah Basham
24	Sharon Elton, Dianna Josi
31	Bill Friedl, Melissa Hilliard



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

4	Sam & Shelley Barg
11	Christine & Roger Rosolowski
18	Jim & Terry Kuchta
24	Harold & Sharon Elton



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. (Psalm 147:4)

○ _ _ _ _ _

The heavens are the work of God's what? (Psalm 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. Letters, how, govern, offspring, splendour, signs. The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1, NIV