

St. John's Epistle

May 2023

A Newsletter of

St. John's Lutheran Church—LCMS
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Psalm 139:13–18

For you formed my inward parts;
 you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
 Wonderful are your works;
 my soul knows it very well.
 My frame was not hidden from you,
 when I was being made in secret,
 intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
 Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
 in your book were written, every one of them,
 the days that were formed for me,
 when as yet there were none of them.
 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
 How vast is the sum of them!
 If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
 I awake, and I am still with you.

Are you just one of many? Are you just a number? How easy is it to feel so insignificant or unimportant? Do you feel different or not likeable? It seems like that is exactly what is going on in today's world as people try to figure out who they are. They often search and search and search. They make change after change instead of embracing their Creator.

The Psalmist tells us, according to God, that you are **“fearfully and wonderfully made.”** God created you right in every detail. He formed you in your mother's womb! He knows you and loves you exactly how you are! He knows every hair on your head! How wonderful is that! The Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, created you and views you as someone very special. His love daily reaches out to you.

God also has a special plan for your lives. The Psalmist wrote, **“Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me,**

when as yet there was none of them.” (Psalm 139:16) God knows you inside and out. He knows your sin and your rebellion against Him. That’s why He sent His Son Jesus Christ to go to the cross and die for all of your sins. Forgiven and restored, you can now live for God, under His guidance, using the gifts and talents He has given you.

Is it easy? Not at all! But God is with you on the journey. He knows your good days and bad days. He knows your sadness and happiness. He knows everything that you are going through. The truth is you are safe! No matter what happens in your life you are safe. You are unique! You are God’s child, wonderfully and beautifully made. You are not a number or a carbon copy. You belong to God. You have been bought, purchased, and won through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Enjoy who you are! Enjoy Jesus! He loves you very much!

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 MAY

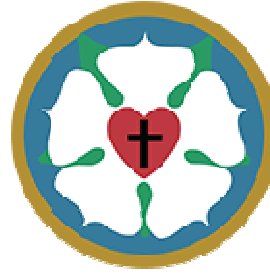
Acolytes: *Ushers*

Altar Guild: *Donna Howard & Mary Ann Riegel*

Finance: *Tom Rosolowski & Jim Kuchta*

Worship Assistants for May

- | | |
|---|---|
| Sunday, May 7 | Elder: Ray Tousey
Greeters: Lorraine Flohr
Ushers: <u>Team 4:</u> Chuck Perenchio-Captain,
Sam Barg, Dave Werner, John Monnier,
Gene Zillmer |
| Sunday, May 14
<i>Caring & Sharing</i> | Elder: Randy Scott
Greeters: Janice Zandi
Ushers: <u>Team 5:</u> Jim Kuchta-Captain,
Gary Drohman, Don Josi, Dave Thompson,
Russ Thompson |
| Sunday, May 21
<i>LWML</i>
<i>Mites In</i>
<i>Gathering</i> | Elder: Tom Rosolowski
Greeters: Dennis & Debbie Flater
Ushers: <u>Team 1:</u> Dave Scott-Captain,
Dave Kuchta, Tom Rosolowski,
Vic Plockelman, Stu Pask |
| Sunday, May 28
<i>Stewardship</i> | Elder: Sam Barg
Greeters: Gil & Jean Johnson
Ushers: <u>Team 2:</u> Dave Kmosena- Captain,
Terry Schar, Mike Kuchta, Jim Rodd,
Lee Purdy |



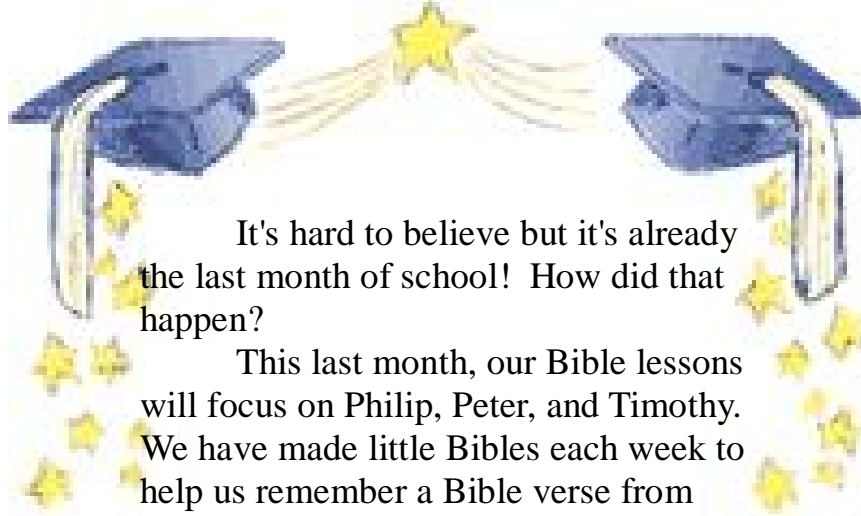
What Luther says:

Luther's elucidation (1518) of this thesis contains memorable words.

Sinners are lovely because they are loved; they are not loved because they are lovely. That is why the love of man avoids sinners and evil persons. But Christ says: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners. (Matthew 9:13) And this is the love of the cross, born of the cross, which betakes itself, not where it may find something good to enjoy but where it may confer good upon the poor and the needy; for it is more blessed to give than to receive, says the Apostle (Acts 20:35) (WLS p. 819)

To be sure, the saving love of God is channeled through the barrier of sin by Christ Jesus only, Luther affirms in his exposition of 1 John 4:16 in 1527.

“God is love,” a well-known text. In fact, God is nothing but Love. Who is able to believe this? He says not only that God is Goodness but also that He is Love! He who knows God as wrathful, hostile, as an Enemy and a Judge, does not know God, because he does not know the love of God. You see how much we still have to learn in Christ. Short but sublime words are these. All human hearts are blind, fearful, and sad because they do not know that God is Love. He who knows this is saved. When I ascend through Christ, I see love supreme in God. (Romans 5:5) (WLS p. 819-820)



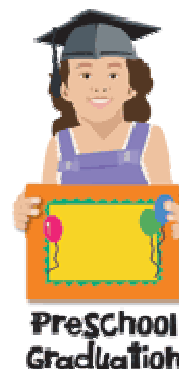
It's hard to believe but it's already the last month of school! How did that happen?

This last month, our Bible lessons will focus on Philip, Peter, and Timothy. We have made little Bibles each week to help us remember a Bible verse from each week of school.

We have been reviewing the letters of the alphabet-as well as continuing with shapes, colors, and numbers. Each student is now an 'expert' at writing their name!

Our themes for the month will be Zoo, Ocean, and Summer.

Graduation this year will be on May 24th at 6:00PM. We hope to see you there!





Have you ever experienced the tastiness
of "Noah's Ark" or a "Red Sea Split"?

If not.....Mark your Calendar for

SUNDAY, May 21st

You will DEFINITELY want to visit the



Sponsored by St. John's Sunday School

**The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry
- Newsletter Article May 2023**

Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job~~ø~~ already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought – He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

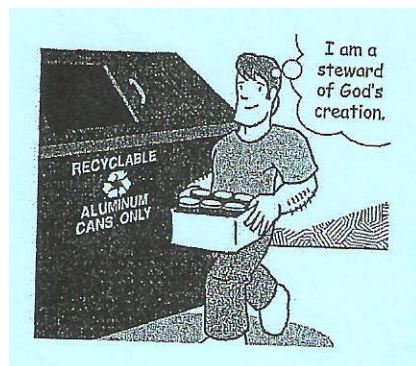
We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that

genuine love is always love òin deedö (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:566). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord's work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

A historical item from past bulletins



You Are God's Steward

Possibly the most difficult blessing from God to steward faithfully is money. Even though you may have only a little money to manage, you are to be a faithful and responsible steward. In addition to your money, you are to be a faithful steward of

your time and talents. Whether you are at school, home, church, or in the neighborhood, you are to be a faithful steward. Being a steward involves all that you are, have, and do.

May 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 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 11:30AM Ladies Birthday Luncheon	2 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 6:00PM BOCE/YM	3 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 6:30-7:15PM Confirmation Class	4 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	5	6
7 9:00AM Worship <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School 11:15 Elder meeting	8 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	9 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 11:30AM Evangelism/Stewardship	10 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 1:00PM Ladies Group 6:30-7:15PM Confirmation Class	11 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	12	13 10:00AM LWML Bible Study 11:00AM LWML meeting
14 <i>Caring and Sharing</i> 8:00AM Finance 9:00AM Worship +HC (Youth Acolyte) Confirmation Sunday <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School	15 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	16 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 1:00PM FAP Quilt Guild 6:00PM Council	17 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	18 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	19	20 10:00AM-noon Crafty Stitches
21 <i>LWML Mites Ingathering</i> 9:00AM Worship <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School (last day of Sunday School) Biblical Ice Cream Shoppe after worship	22 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	23 8:30-11:30AM Preschool NEWSLETTER ITEMS ARE DUE TODAY	24 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 6:00PM Preschool Graduation	25 8:30-11:30AM Preschool (last day of preschool)	26	27
	St John's Volunteers serve meals at the Senior Center Meal Site this week					
28 <i>Stewardship Sunday</i> 9:00AM Worship +HC (Youth Acolyte) <i>Bible Study after worship</i>	29 <i>Memorial Day</i>	30	31			



Taking God's Word into Remote and Rural Areas

Lutheran Bible Translators Mission Vehicle Fund — \$70,000

2021–2023 Biennium
Mission Goal:
\$2,150,000
Mission Grant #22
\$70,000

*"So faith comes
from hearing, and
hearing through
the word of Christ"
(Romans 10:17).*

Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) started in 1964 and their mission is to make God's Word accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their heart. LBT has partnerships on the continent of Africa, the Middle East, Papua New Guinea, Southeast Asia, and the United States, working to put God's Word in their hands.

Lutheran Bible Translators is equipping people in the African countries of Ethiopia and Sierra Leone by translating the Word into their local or heart languages of the people. LBT partners with local churches and organizations to run programs including managing translation projects and literacy programs. After translation is complete, literacy programs within the local language communities train people to read the translated Bible and begin a personal relationship with God. When people read God's Word in their local or heart language, they experience God speaking to them and they respond to His grace in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Program managers in Sierra Leone and Ethiopia travel to supervise literacy programs and bring needed teaching supplies to the communities. They bring primers, supplementary readers, and Scripture engagement materials such as radios, Bibles, and chalk boards. The roads to the widespread communities are rough and poorly maintained. The washed-out roads and potholes lead to increased wear and tear on tires, suspension, and axles. It takes a robust, reliable vehicle to manage rough terrain and safely deliver partners to their destinations.

This grant will help purchase two vehicles equipped and designed for travel over these rough roads. One vehicle is for the Bible Translation Office of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) which oversees 23 translation projects. The second vehicle is for the literacy coordinator of The Institute of Sierra Leonean Languages (TSLSL) and will be used to visit hard to reach rural areas in Sierra Leone. TSLSL manages literacy and Scripture engagement programs in six Sierra Leonean languages. These visits help local language communities to develop and sustain their own local language literacy classes. For more information on Lutheran Bible Translators go to lbt.org.

*"If anyone has ears to hear,
let him hear" (Mark 4:23).*

Learn more about this mission grant at lwml.org/mission-grants





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*"So faith comes
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(Romans 10:17).

Prayer #1

Dear Lord, we ask You to bless the work of Lutheran Bible Translators as they partner with people in Ethiopia and Sierra Leone to share the love of Christ in their own language. Please be with them and the people they touch with Your love, guide and direct them, and keep them in Your saving grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer #2

Dear Father, You promise that faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ. Please be with missionaries and workers as they bring the Gospel to people in Ethiopia and Sierra Leone. Watch over them and guide them as they travel to remote areas in these countries. May the Holy Spirit work in the hearts of those they serve. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Prayer #3

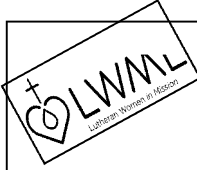
Dear Lord, we ask that You be with the missionaries and workers of Lutheran Bible Translators as they translate Your Word. They travel on roads to remote areas of Ethiopia and Sierra Leone taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to Your people. Since travel to these areas is difficult, we ask that You guide and protect them. Open the hearts of the people as they hear and read of Your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer #4

Dear Lord, thank You for the people who work with the Lutheran Bible Translators and travel into remote areas of Ethiopia and Sierra Leone to share the Gospel. Thank You for the mite offerings that will be used to purchase two vehicles that will provide the workers with better and safer transportation. Please be with them and all those they serve, bless them, and keep them in your tender loving care. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Learn more about this mission grant at lwml.org/mission-grants






Saturday, May 13, 2023 10AM, LWML Bible Study, "Alive in God's Word". 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.

Saturday May 13, 11 AM LWML Meeting.



Bible Study-LWML-Zone 4

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church; Prentice, WI

When: Wednesday at 1:00 PM

Question: Mary Scharenbrock ; 715-826-0160

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.





Gifts from the Heart



2023 LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

At each convention LWML members and groups share God's blessings with others through Gifts from the Heart (GFTH). St/ John's LWML has chosen to collect GFTH items for Phil's Friends to be taken to the Milwaukee convention in June 2023.

Items needed:

- Puzzle books
- Journals
- Playing cards (regular)
- Fuzzy socks
- Hats (knit, crochet, or baseball)
- Walmart Gift cards* (any denomination) * It is very

important that the amount of each gift card be written on each card in permanent marker

To learn more about Phil's Friends go to

<https://philsfriends.org>

To request a care package for a cancer patient go to

<https://philsfriends.org/request-a-care-package/>

- Thank you for your support of the 2023 Gifts from the Heart & sharing the love of Christ!





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.*

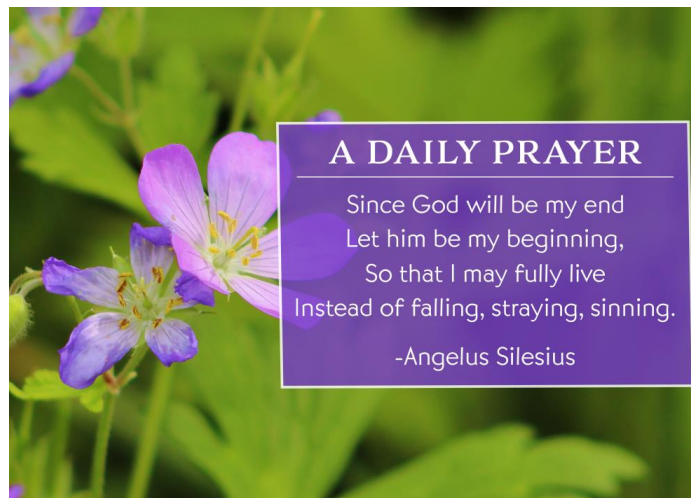
Ladies! Birthday lunches aren't just for birthdays; of course birthdays for the month are celebrated, but also it gives us an informal excuse to get together with our sisters in Christ to form bonds and friendships. No invitation needed!



Birthday Mondays!

Monday, **May 1st** at 11:30 a.m. at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant.

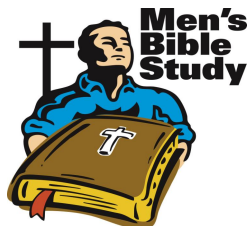
All are welcome!



A DAILY PRAYER

Since God will be my end
Let him be my beginning,
So that I may fully live
Instead of falling, straying, sinning.

-Angelus Silesius



Men's Bible Study will be on
Thursday, **May 4th & 18th;**
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.

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!



1	Karen Kmosena
2	Dalton Thompson
3	Tammy Busse, Tim Dolan
4	Debbie Flater
6	Paula Hook, Gil Johnson
9	McKenzie Wilson
10	Mike Kuchta
12	Marty Shimko
13	Kristin Flater
15	Bonnie Tatro
19	Ernie Mogensen, Jordan Pask
20	Kim Skabroud
25	Lee Purdy
26	Wyatt Blomberg, Ethel Diederich, Bill Myers
27	Maria Basham, Lucille Bernard
28	Matt Boehmer, Chris Kibellus, Josh Zandi
29	Clara Basham



MAY BIRTHDAYS



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

1	Lisa & Don Gleason
4	Jason & Meagan Balko
11	Travis & Melissa Hilliard
13	Tom & Kathy Silvernale
19	Roberta & Joe Baye
26	Bob & Rachel Hauser
28	Vic & Bonnie Plockelman
31	Gil & Jean Johnson



Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost,
when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

*Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next.
Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.*

1. HEAV
2. ABLE
3. AY OF PENTECOS
4. ONGUE
5. PIRI
6. OGETHE
7. ES
8. ONGUE
9. A
10. IND



"When the _____ came, they were all
_____ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a
violent _____ came from _____ and filled the whole
house where they were sitting. They _____ what seemed to be
_____ of fire that separated and came to _____ on each
of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____ and began
to speak in other _____ as the Spirit _____ them."

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together,
7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind