



The St John Lutheran Newsletter is a monthly publication of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Volume 4 Issue 9

Weekly Schedule:

- Service 9:00 am
- Adult Bible Study/
Sunday School
10:15am
- Confirmation Sundays
noon - 1:30pm
- Monday Night Bible
Study 6pm
- Wednesday Coffee
Time 8:30am
- Wednesday Scripture
Study 9 am
- Youth Group
Wednesday 5:30pm

Special Activities:

- LWML September 3 @
11am
- Elders September 3
@ 6pm

From the Desk of Rev. Samuel Beltz

Baptism

So far we've discussed the identity and work of Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God who rules and reigns over God's creation on God's behalf. Or to put in a slightly different way: the one true God, who is boss of everything, rules over his creation through his Son Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. God is working through Jesus and in the power of the Spirit to set his creation right.

The Means of Grace

But how do we become part of God's reign through Jesus and the Holy Spirit? The answer is: God enacts his reign on us through "the means of grace."

The means of grace are means by which God conveys and gives his saving grace—that is, his favor. In other words, the means of grace are favorable acts of God toward the recipients, in which God gives a sign of his good will toward the recipient. There are three means of grace: the Word (spoken and written), Baptism, and the Lord's Supper. Why these three and not others? Because Jesus instituted and commanded these three. He sent out his followers in the power of the Spirit as his witnesses (Acts 1.6-11) to preach the gospel about Jesus (Lk. 24.44-49), to baptize and to teach everything Jesus commanded (Mt. 28.19-20), to forgive and retain sins (Jn. 20.19-23), and to celebrate the Lord's Supper (Mt. 26.26-29; Mk. 14.22-25; Lk. 22.19-20).

Baptism in the Biblical Story

The first and most important thing to notice about baptism is where it fits within the Biblical story. Everything we have to say about baptism derives from its place in the larger narrative that the Bible tells about God and his works. Rather than recount the whole story from creation, we can focus our attention on Jesus.

When Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove and God spoke, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." The baptism that Jesus underwent has nothing directly to do with Christian baptism. Instead, Jesus' own baptism initiated his mission to bring about the reign of God. In the power of the Spirit Jesus cast out demons, he healed the sick, he raised the dead, and he called sinners to repentance and forgave their sins. But some doubted Jesus' power and authority as the Son of God. For instance, there was a time when Jesus forgave the sins of a paralytic. Those who were watching him were taken aback and began to grumble, "Who can forgive sins but God alone." So that they would know that Jesus has the power and authority of God (the creator's power over all creation), Jesus told the paralytic to stand up and walk. At the power of Jesus' command, the man who was paralyzed stood up and walked. But many were unconvinced. So when Jesus wouldn't back down from his claims, they crucified him as a blasphemer—a liar.

Continued on pg 3

September Duties:**Elder**

Sean Strothman

Altar GuildMyrna Anthony
Betty McWilliams**Acolyte**

Bristol Duffy

Greeter

Karen Westercamp

Hospitality9/6 Rebecca Duffy &
Cassie Beltz
9/13 Julie Rice &
Marjorie Roach
9/20 Brooklyn Vanderwilt &
Evie McKain
9/27 Tara Crile & Sue Geoge**Ushers**9/6 Curt Jager & Gabe Hoy
9/13 Alan Pickett &
Mike Forschler
9/20 Lawrence Smith &
James Horn
9/27 Adam McKain &
Nolan McKain

A big THANK YOU to all members who served as organists, Hospitality servers, Ushers, Elders and Altar Guild last month.

This is just another part of STEWARDSHIP in action at St. John.

LWML NEWS

LWML will meet in September for a business meeting. Devotions "Speak Graciously" presented by Sue George. Hostess: Marjorie Roach & Sue George

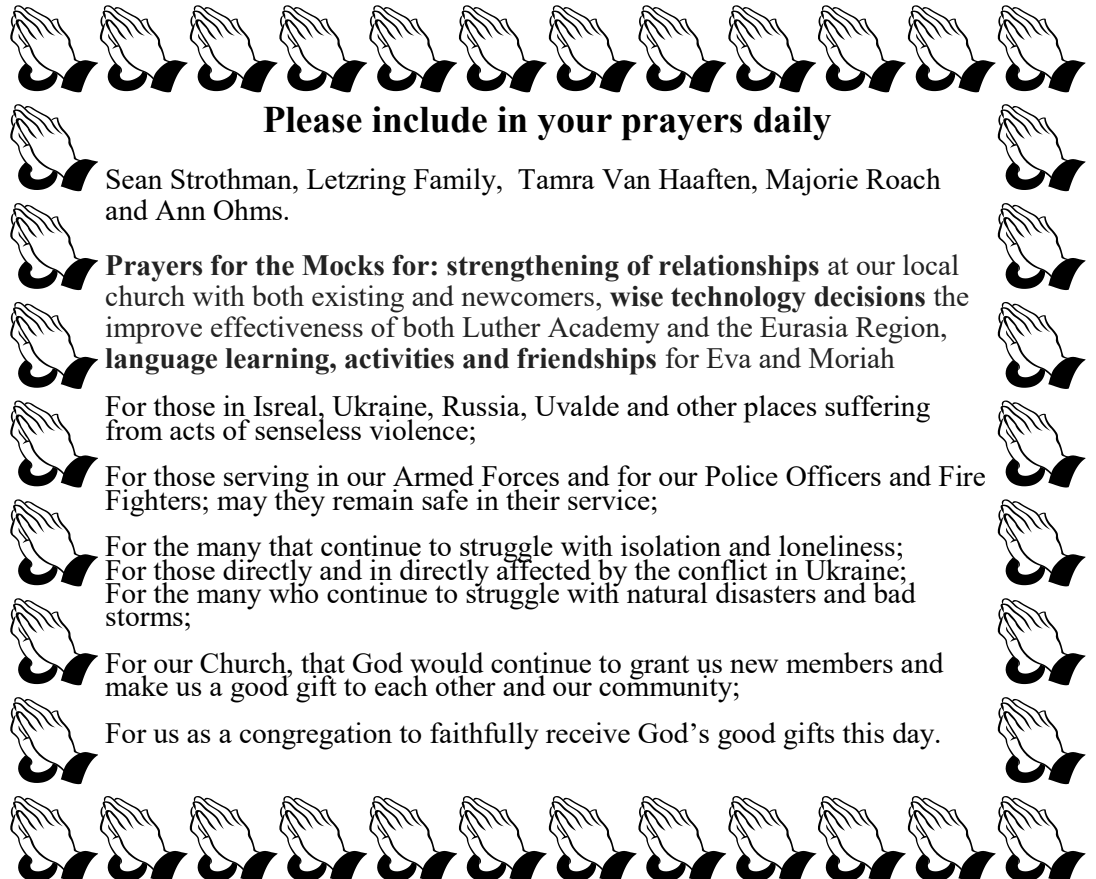
Mite box Sunday is the first Sunday of the Month. Please remember to bring your mites and put in the LWML box.

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Gabriel Hoy	9-02
Jacob Anderson	9-03
Jason Crile	9-03
Lauren McKain	9-03
Grant King	9-04
Amara Vander Molen	9-06
Cami Grubb	9-13
John Fynaardt	9-15
Patricia Vander Molen	9-15
Myrna Anthony	9-28
Samuel Schauer	9-29

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY

Dave & Carol Fynaardt	9-06-80
Jake & Stacy Van Voorst	9-06-25
David & Julie Rice	9-20-03
Tom & Sue Pitts	9-29-79



Continued from pg 1

But God vindicated Jesus. God proved that Jesus is, in fact, God's Son by raising him from the dead. Jesus then sent out his disciples to continue his mission. Here is where Christian baptism fits within the story.

"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age'" (Matthew 28:16–20).

What then is baptism according to the Biblical story? Baptism is the ritual washing that Jesus commanded his disciples to perform in order to make disciples of all nations. Moreover, Jesus not only commands baptism, he also attaches promises to it. Jesus says, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

We can draw several consequences from the place of baptism within the biblical story:

Baptism is God's work.

Baptism's *validity* and *value* come from Jesus' command and promise (*and not from the holiness of the person who baptizes, or any quality within us, or because there's something special about the water itself*).

There are two parts to baptism, the water and the word. The most significant part, the part that gives baptism its ability to save, is Jesus' word.

Baptism is rightly received through faith.

Compare how Luther describes baptism in his Small Catechism (Baptism, sections 1–3) with our discussions so far.

What is Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water. It is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word.

Which Word of God is this? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew (28.19), "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

What benefits does baptism give? It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these Words of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark (Mark 16.16), "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

How can water do such great things? Certainly not just water, but the Word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without God's Word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But, with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus chapter three (3.5-8), "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying."

Discuss the following questions.

Is baptism necessary?

If we don't believe the word, is baptism still a baptism?

Do we have to be submerged for baptism to be valid?

What is it about baptism that saves us, Jesus' command and promise or faith?

Pastor Samuel Beltz

FRIENDS OF Marty

Friends of Marty will meet on
SEPTEMBER 11
at
6:00 PM
for a
STEAK COOKOUT!

The menu features
STEAK ONLY.

We hope you'll join us for good food and fellowship!



*Make ahead.
Eat well. Stress less.*

FREEZER Meal Workshop

**SEPTEMBER 26
@ 4 PM**

Join us for a fun and practical workshop where we'll make **5 DELICIOUS**, family-friendly freezer meals together!

- MAKE 5 MEALS** to stock your freezer
- RECIPES & GROCERY LIST** provided
- SAVE TIME. EAT WELL.** Less stress on busy days!

Good food. Good company. Great prep!

SPACES ARE LIMITED – SIGN UP TODAY!




MEMORY VERSE

THIS IS LOVE, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that **YOU SHOULD WALK IN IT.**

— 2 JOHN 6 —



RALLY SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 13

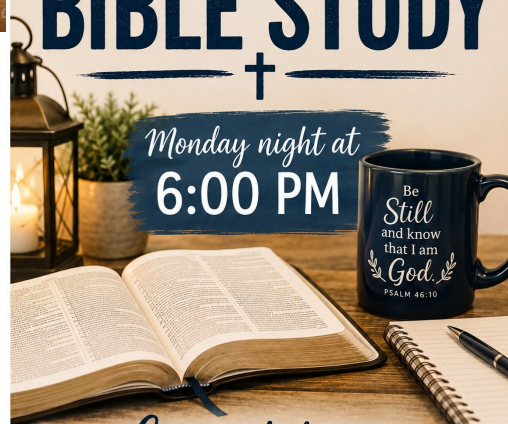
LEARN YOUR NEW TEACHER!




Monday Night BIBLE STUDY

Monday night at
6:00 PM

Come join us
for Bible study and
Christian fellowship



September 2026

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 8:30am Coffee Hour 9:00am Scripture Study Bulletin Items Due	3 LWML 11am Elders 6pm	4	5
6 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15am Adult Bible Study	7 BBQ at Pastor's 5-8pm	8	9 8:30am Coffee Hour 9:00am Scripture Study Bulletin Items due	10	11 Friends of Marty 6pm	12
13 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15am Rally Sunday Confirmation 12:00-1:30pm	14 Monday Night Bible Study 6pm	15	16 8:30am Coffee Hour 9:00am Scripture Study 6:00pm Youth Group Bulletin items due	17	18	19
20 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15am Bible Study/ Sunday School Confirmation 12:00-1:30pm	21 Pastor at Symposium St. Louis	22	23 Bulletin items due	24	25	26 Freezer Meal Workshop 4pm
27 9:00am Matins 10:15am Bible School/ Sunday School Confirmation 12:00-1:30pm	28 Monday Night Bible Study 6pm	29	30 8:30am Coffee Hour 9:00am Scripture Study 6pm Youth Group Bulletin Items due	1	2	3

