



# Epistle



S T . J O H N L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

## Faith is Never Alone

Faith in anything, but especially in Christ Jesus, the Word of God, is never alone. Faith always has an object, just as numbers have units, and people fill roles. The sentence, “I have one.” is meaningless unless there is a clear object: “One what?” To say, “I have great faith” is also meaningless unless the **object of that faith** is clear. In a similar way, there is no average Joe and Jane Q. Smith out there with an average number of children. There are actual fathers and mothers with real children who live and work in the roles God gave them. Even the homeless, alien, or wanderer at least has the role of being a fellow inhabitant of this land, a living consumer of God’s good gifts. If the object of faith is Christ, then we know from Scripture that faith in Him always produces good works just as trees produce seeds and fruit. (St. Matthew 7:17)

As many volunteers from St. John Lutheran Church in Chester continue to seek to reconnect with members, they hear a defense from Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” This passage may seem to defend against any effort whatsoever, even the effort it takes to go to church. However, the main subject of verses 8-9 is one’s **salvation**, where our work and effort has no place. The following verse (10) speaks more to our works and their proper place in this earthly life, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” It is true that our salvation is a gift, earned by Christ on the cross. However, sinners have a way of neglecting and losing this precious gift.

People show what they value by their behavior. Who and what is worth one’s time, effort, thought, and care in this life? As the highest of all creation, people need love and especially that specific type of love called teaching or training because of sin, the world, and Satan. Jesus’ Parable of the Sower (St. Matthew 13) spreading seed among birds, rocks, and thorns, is a fitting description for hindrances to our faith. The fleshly **cares of this world**, like thorns, can crowd, choke, and suffocate the feeding of one’s faith. It seems easier to have faith in God’s earthly gifts like family, freedom, money, or one’s community. The hard thing about the Christian faith is that it distinguishes the Creator from His creation. Sinners are most likely to love, trust, and worship the creation instead of their Creator. When the world troubles one’s faith in Christ, those without deep roots wither as plants growing in rocky soil. That is why regular church attendance, obeying the third commandment, is so important.

One of the paradoxes of the Christian faith is maturity. Christ says that, “unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (St. Matthew 18:3) The old Adam and sinful nature wants to take this as a ticket to immaturity and irresponsibility. Nevertheless, Christ also says to “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” (St. Matthew 7:13-14) How can Jesus call Christians to be children and yet still take that narrow road? To earthly reason it makes no sense, but **faith still clings to Jesus’** words: “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (St. Matthew 11:28-30)

- Pastor Massey

**OUR 2018-2019 YEAR-TO-DATE  
FINANCIAL STATUS**

**Cash Flow from 7/31/2018 to 8/22/18**

Year-to-date Income                 \$67,545.43  
 Year-to-date Expense                \$ 97,952.44  
 Difference (Income - Expense)   (\$30,407.01)

**Money owed on Line of Credit**

Beginning Balance 7/31/18         \$104,076.27  
 Paid on Debt year-to-date         (\$56,374.06)  
 Borrowed year-to-date               \$28,200.00  
 LOC Renewal Fee                       \$00.00  
 Current Balance as of 8/22/18     \$69,102.21

**P A R E N T S , Y O U M I G H T B E A S K I N G , “ W H Y  
S H O U L D I S E N D M Y K I D S T O S U N D A Y S C H O O L ? ”**

In 45 minutes on a given Sunday morning, your child will learn God’s story in fun and interactive ways. We make snacks and create art projects that enhance the Bible story. There are movies and active games that help us focus on the lesson. Your child might use bubbles, a catapult, or a science experiment to learn more about Bible heroes. The students will not only learn familiar Bible stories, but they learn how to apply God’s teachings to their daily lives.

If your child’s schedule prevents weekly attendance, no problem! Bring him whenever he can attend. If she is dragging her feet in hesitation, parents are welcome to stay in the classroom as necessary. There are many things we have to encourage our kids to try throughout life that we know are in their best interest. Sunday School is a lot more fun than getting immunizations or having dental work! If you don’t want to be running around all morning, Pastor’s Bible study meets in the church during the same time period.

Our Sunday School teachers are capable, caring volunteers and would love to see our classes crowded. Our first session of the school year is Sept. 9. We will be having a picnic immediately after the 10:00 service on Sept. 23.

Contact Jill Arbeiter at 615-5166 or Kelly in the church office if you have questions.

**Members mailed in October 2017**

Many thanks to all who have helped us locate and/or get in contact with members over the past year. Although it may seem that we’ve made little progress the willingness of so many members to help find so many others is quite a blessing to two pastors who have their hands quite full already! Below are those we mailed last October who we hope to contact by phone or other means in case they desire a transfer to another LCMS congregation.

Ashley Allen	Kathy Baker	Christy Berger	Ann Bilderback
Randy Blum	Julie Burkman	Amber Eggemeyer	Brian Ehlers
Ralyn Frosting	Theodore Gleghorn	Jacey Hecht	Jodi Hormann
Michel Knott	Robin Knowles	Angela Kosko	Lee Kueker
Kelly Milligan	Tammy Milligan	Maddlyn Moore	Jennifer Pippin
Michelle Rader and Family	Wendy Rice	Ross Rinne	
Jamie Reynolds and Fam.	Angela Sanders and Family	Darrel Steele	Darrel Wilson

We plan to send out our next mailing in September, but there are a few for whom we do not have a current address. If you would be able to help us locate them, please call or leave a message at the church office: 826-3545.

Tori Brown	Damon & Fallon Chandler	Krista Downey	Amiee Hohman & Family
Lawrence II Jouglard	John Knop	Dawn Kueker	Kaleb, Shelby, & Randy Kueker
Aaron Mallery	Brent Morris	Angela Valleroy & Family	Amber Verslile
Miranda Weinken	Debra Welge		

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

It's September, and everything is in full swing again: back to school and back to church attendance after vacations and weekends away. And since everything is back into full swing, it's a perfect time to get back to basics, back to the foundation.

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, "Daddy, give me six pence to buy you a birthday present." Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child's present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is six-pence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers — stewards — acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deuteronomy 8:17–18), but also all that we are in this life (1 Corinthians 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability.

For the Lord said, "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more" (Luke 12:48b).

And from this comes blessing and reward: "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands.

On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours — not as stewards but as sons (Galatians 4:1–7).

Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

Taken from [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)

## APPLE BUTTER

The CAPPERS group and friends will be once again making apple butter this year. Tentative plans are to prepare the apples for cooking on **Labor Day, Monday September 3** in the parish hall around 1 p.m. (Please bring your own favorite knife.) We will teach you all you need to know. Weather permitting we will start cooking on **Tuesday, September 4 around 6 a.m.** over open air fires in kettles in the church rock parking lot. The rain date will be on **Wednesday, September 5**. Thanks for all your support.

## "What's Happening Here?"

### God Coming to Serve You in Worship



What's actually happening in worship? What is God doing? What are we doing? Why do we worship the way we do? Join us for special worship services on September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. We will go through each individual element of the *Divine Service*, from the actions of the pastor and worshipers, to the words we speak and sing. Come discover the hidden miracle of what God is doing for you in worship.

## ACOLYTES



Sat Sept 1 5:00 pm Gabriel Steele  
 Sun Sept 2 7:45 am Max Blechle  
 10:00 am Addyson Mitchell  
 Sat Sept 8 5:00 pm Ashlynn Lemanski  
 Sun Sept 9 7:45 am Joshua Sims  
 10:00 am Cole Johnson  
 Sat Sept 15 5:00 pm Matt James  
 Sun Sept 16 7:45 am Aden Runge  
 10:00 am Alex Williamson  
 Sat Sept 22 5:00 pm Gavin Schroeder  
 Sun Sept 23 7:45 am Clayton Kothe  
 10:00 am Abby Bollman  
 Sat Sept 29 5:00 pm Jasmine Merideth  
 Sun Sept 30 7:45 am Max Blechle  
 10:00 am Joshua Sims

## USHER TEAMS

Sat Sept 1 5:00 pm Volunteer  
 Sun Sept 2 7:45 am Dennis Kontz  
 10:00 am Gary Eggemeyer  
 Sat Sept 8 5:00 pm Volunteer  
 Sun Sept 9 7:45 am Ron Rathert  
 10:00 am Rick Casten  
 Sat Sept 15 5:00 pm Volunteer  
 Sun Sept 16 7:45 am Gary Duensing  
 10:00 am Don Stallman  
 Sat Sept 22 5:00 pm Volunteer  
 Sun Sept 23 7:45 am Dennis Kontz  
 10:00 am Gary Eggemeyer  
 Sat Sept 29 5:00 pm Volunteer  
 Sun Sept 30 7:45 am Ron Rathert  
 10:00 am Rick Casten

## ALTAR GUILD



Sept 1 & 15 & 29 Wanda Dethrow, Jim and Rosemary Oetting  
 Sept 9 & 23 & 30 Pam Sheely & Larry and Imogene McDonough  
 Gary and Pam Knop

## WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 7:45 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship Broadcast on KSGM 980 AM  
 online at ksgm980.com

## GREETERS

Sat Sept 1 5:00 pm Ruby Schimer  
 Sun Sept 2 7:45 am Dwayne & Susan Schwarz  
 10:00 am Carla Welge  
 Sat Sept 8 5:00 pm Amber Cushman  
 Sun Sept 9 7:45 am Marilyn Duensing  
 10:00 am Mary Stallman  
 Sat Sept 15 5:00 pm Virginia Rowold  
 Sun Sept 16 7:45 am Tammy Grah  
 10:00 am Dolores Hillerman  
 Sat Sept 22 5:00 pm Janice Dettmer  
 Sun Sept 23 7:45 am Barb Fricke  
 10:00 am Barb Welge  
 Sat Sept 29 5:00 pm Doris Knoke  
 Sun Sept 30 7:45 am Sarah Schenk  
 10:00 am Myrna Campbell

## RADIO ANNOUNCER & TECHNICIANS



Sept 2 Dallas Redeker / Bob Platt  
 Sept 9 Amanda Middendorf / Tony Young  
 Sept 16 Mardell Granger / Charlie Bargman  
 Sept 23 Chris Urquhart / Lynn Rickenberg  
 Sept 30 Chris Colvis / Bob Platt

## WEEKEND JANITORS

Sept 1/2 Lisa Meade / Gary Kelkhoff  
 Sept 9 Lisa Meade / Larry McDonough  
 Sept 16 Dennis Mott  
 Sept 23 Lisa Meade / Ryan Petrowske  
 Sept 30 Ron Cushman / Chris Urquhart

## ALUMINUM CANS



Aug 27- Sept 1 Fred Fricke  
 Sept 3-8 Larry McDonough  
 Sept 10-15 Mike Welge  
 Sept 17-22 Brett Klindworth  
 Sept 24-29 Fred Fricke

## CHURCH E-MAIL

Rev. Timothy Sims- timoteosims@hotmail.com  
 Rev. Justin Massey- Justin.Massey@ctsfw.edu  
 Kelly Walls— secretary@stjohnchester.com  
 Tammy Crawford— nurse@stjohnchester.com

## Book Fair Coming to St. John

Come for the books, stay for the ice cream, and enjoy the fellowship all evening! The St. John PTL will host a Book Fair and Ice Cream Social on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to attend. Students will also be allowed to shop the book fair Tuesday and Wednesday during their lunch hour.



St. John Ev. Lutheran Church  
302 W. Holmes Street  
Chester, Illinois 62233

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Chester, Illinois 62233  
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Car. R. T. Presort

Return Service Requested

JESUS LOVES:



# September

WWW.STJOHNCHESTER.COM

## BIBLE TREASURE HUNT:



**Bible Incomplete:** Fill in the missing letters to complete the passage.

Fo\_I\_a\_no\_as\_am\_d\_o\_th\_go\_pe\_of\_hr\_st: or\_t\_i\_th\_po\_er\_f\_G\_d\_u\_to\_al\_at\_on\_o\_e\_er\_  
on\_th\_t\_b\_li\_ve\_h; t\_th\_Je\_fi\_st, nd\_ls\_to\_he\_re\_k. F\_r\_t\_er\_in\_s\_t\_e\_r\_gh\_eo\_sn\_ss\_f\_G\_d  
r\_ve\_le\_fr\_m\_f\_it\_to\_ai\_h: a\_it\_s\_w\_it\_en, he\_us\_sh\_ll\_iv\_by\_ai\_h.

**Answer to last month's Bible Treasure Hunt:**

The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:22-24

## CAPPERS

CAPPERS will meet on Sunday, September 23 at 1:00 p.m. to play cards and have a light meal in the Parish Hall.

## NEW FACILITY

The New Facility Fund has experienced some growth in the last few weeks. As of August 31 the account has reached \$549, 286.10. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to honor your favorite athlete, scholar, teacher, cook, janitor, or secretary. Maybe you need a birthday gift for someone who "has everything." Together we can reach this goal and assure that for years to come there is a safe place for the quality education that is provided at St. John.

