

St. John Journal

News & info for the family of St. John
Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill



*A loving and welcoming family of faith,
excited about what God has done
(and continues to do!)*

Volume 15, Number 9

September 2022

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"Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!" Psalm 96:9

Training creates development, maturity, and excellence in our skills. In my early years (2-5 years old), my grandmother said that I was a formidable pew Olympian in the making. Crawling underneath, over, or around church pews was my worship skill. The truth of the matter was that my willingness to explore the next pew was a distraction for my family's worship moment with God. My mom and grandmother's faithfulness to attend weekly worship took on a direction. Each Sunday, they faithfully guided me in my belief in the Lord and helped to mold and shape my worship skills. Their love was tested through my joyful noise (aka screaming) during the reading of scripture, sermons, or Holy Communion. My out burst only strengthened their resolve to guide me in my faith relationship with God. Moms and Dads, we are the key to our children's belief or unbelief in God. Our modeling of faith through our words and actions exemplifies and lays a faith in God a foundation for our children.

"Worship is paramount to our relationship with God," Mom would say. How true this is. David articulates how we should come to God in Psalm 96. We are to "*Worship*" God. "*Worship*" literally means to bow down to God, that is to prostrate ourselves before the Lord. This act of bowing indicates to God and the world our trust, belief, and faith in God. To bow and worship God means we place our lives into God's care. We know God does not seek to harm us, but rather seeks to care for us. Christ Jesus is the ultimate illustration of God caring for us!

To "*Worship*" God puts us in His presence! The Old Testament Tabernacle

was known as God's house and God resides in His house. The church understood this truth, and so an Eternal Candle is always lit in the sanctuary. At any time of day, a person could enter into the sanctuary and see the candle lit by the altar. This candle reminds us the divine presence of God in this place. And, in this sacred sanctuary at St. John we encounter the Living God. We come to "*Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.*"

David notes the natural response to being in God's presence is to "*tremble.*" Personally, trembling is the effect God has on me! Think about it, when God speaks things are created – air water, land, plants, trees, animals, fish, birds, and us! God created us! God gifts us with a special body which brings with it feeling, thoughts, and a soul. The details God uses for us to live are mind blowing! More than being able to create, God heals. The blind man can see. The lame is able to walk. The lifeless body in the Bethany tomb now lives. Amazingly, God takes another step for us that is beyond our abilities. As Jesus, God enters our world to be our sacrificial lamb on the cross. As Jesus, God lays dead and lifeless in the tomb. After three days, God replaces the lost blood on the cross into the lifeless body, and his hearts begins to pump again. From death comes life. God creates us, heals us, forgives us, and gives us eternal life! We "*tremble*" before the awesome presence on God in awe of His power and love for us.

Oh, yes, Moms and Dads, children in church are a blessing and a joy. They too are part of God's family. And Jesus councils us by saying "*Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.*"

Praise the Risen Christ!
Pastor Norm

Contact Information for Pastor Norm

Pastor Norm can be reached in either of the following ways:

Cell Phone Number (361) 362-9108

Or

Email: pastornorm2003@yahoo.com

Readings for September

September		FIRST READING	RESPONSIVE	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
4	Pentecost 13	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-35
11	Pentecost 14	Ezekiel 34:11-24	Psalm 119:169-176	1 Timothy 1:(5-11) 12-17	Luke 15:1-10
18	Pentecost 15	Amos 8:4-7	Psalm 113	1 Timothy 2:1-15	Luke 16:1-15
25	Pentecost 16	Amos 6:1-7	Psalm 146	1 Timothy 3:1-13	Luke 16:19-31

Worship Assistants

Altar Flowers

Sept	Acolyte	Layreader	Flowers Given By
4	Izzy Sommerfield	Jennifer Anderson	<i>Needed</i>
11	Elaina Morgan	Joseph Ordner	<i>Judy Grote in memory of Alex Grote</i>
18	Harper Huckert	Kallie Finke	<i>Sandy Ordner in memory of Barry & Lydia Rust</i>
25	Randa Tillman	Sandra Tillman	<i>Keith & Jeannie Kroll is honor of Audra's 18th Birthday</i>

REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Linda Crabtree prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com Church Office Phone: 979-836-8666
 Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm Website: www.stjohnprairiehill.org
 Church Council President Kenneth Seeker (512) 801-8663



Baptismal Anniversaries

9/01/1985	Ashley Armatys	9/15/1978	Michelle Janner
9/01/1996	Allie Rosenbaum	9/16/1962	Shelly Lehmann
9/02/1962	James Stokes	9/17/1995	Josh Church
9/03/1950	Danney Rohde	9/17/2017	Luke Wienken
9/04/1966	Gail Mitschke	9/20/1936	Florence Bentke
9/04/2005	Phyllis Bickham	9/21/1941	Charles Spinn
9/05/1965	Robert Neuendorff	9/22/1946	Gerald Kuecker
9/05/2004	Alexis Warmke	9/23/1990	Beau Voelkel
9/07/1975	Brandon Kluck	9/24/1940	Dorothy Meyer
9/07/1986	Ross Curtis	9/24/1950	Ellen Spinn
9/10/1933	Gilbert Spinn	9/25/1955	Patti Clay
9/10/1961	Brenda Randermann	9/25/1966	Russell Seeker
9/11/1977	Cathy Boeker	9/25/2016	Cooper Huckert
9/12/1982	Jentri Blake	9/26/1954	David Feldmann
9/14/1930	Evelyn Thielemann	9/26/1961	Judi Davis
9/14/1969	Jon Westerfeld	9/27/1970	Donna Haarmeyer
9/15/1940	Billy Wellmann	9/28/1986	Taurie Randermann
9/15/1950	Don Keller	9/30/1984	Dana Gaskamp
9/15/1957	David Clay		

Wedding Anniversaries



9/04/1982	Charles & Rita Gaskamp	9/19/1992	Michael & Sabrina Altman
9/12/1992	George & Sharon Boswell	9/24/1978	Jimmie & Karen Dreyer
9/15/1979	James & Florence Wolff	9/27/1976	Allen & Arlie Parker

You are in our thoughts and prayers as each of you celebrate your special day. May God richly bless you!

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes for August 8, 2022

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on August 8, 2022, at 6:00 pm. Council President, Kenneth Seeker, called the meeting to order, and Pastor Norm Sulaica opened with scripture and prayer. All members except Herbert Klatte Jr. and Jennifer Schroeder were present. The July minutes were approved as distributed.

Old Business

To comply with insurance requirements by Heffernan Religious Institution Program, our insurance carrier, Sharon Neutzler and Pastor Norm will draft a written Sexual Misconduct Policy designed to prevent abuse, molestation, or sexual harassment for approval by council.

New Business

Motion to approve setting up a Pastor's Discretionary Account at Brenham National Bank. Sharon Neutzler and Pastor Norm will establish parameters for use of the funds and will draft policy for approval by council. **MSC.**

Based upon results of the survey regarding times for Sunday School and worship, a **Motion** to hold Sunday School at 8:30am and one worship service at 9:15am until further notified. **MSC.**

Committee Reports:

Treasurer Report Sharon Neutzler

Report as submitted.

Financial Secretary Report Jeannie Kroll

For month of July, the total Weekly Giving Deposits were \$11,490.00 and Direct Deposits were \$4,332.63 for a total giving of \$15,822.63.

Community Concerns Report India Randermann

Food Pantry served 68 families (130 people) at two distributions in July.

Worship and Music Report Mary Longhofer

Ushers are needed for October. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Parish Education Report Jennifer Schroeder

No report.

Youth Report Herbert Klatte Jr.

No report.

Evangelism Report Josh Clay

Upon restart of Sunday School, everyone is invited to meet in the Annex for coffee, donuts, and fellowship before church service.

Property Report Steve Skrla

Church directional road signs and new metal nameplate at church electronic sign have been installed.

Plexiglass for stain glass windows will be installed by Josh Clay and “friends”.

Integrity Works has a small amount of work left to be completed.

The air-conditioning unit will be replaced in the Activity Center in the coming weeks.

Pastor’s Report Pr. Norm Sulaica

A Shepherding Team is being formed to assist Pastor in observing worship patterns and to focus on worship attendance to assure members are being fed with the Word and Sacraments.

A Confirmation Parents’ Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24, at 6pm to discuss the upcoming year of study and family activities.

Home visits are being made.

Pastor Tim Christ will lead worship on August 14 while Pastor Norm is out of town for granddaughter’s baptism.

Faith and Family Sermon Series is scheduled for first four Sundays in October.

A mid-week Bible Study is planned and more information will follow.

Motion to approve all reports as presented. **MSC.**



Motion to adjourn. **MSC.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Fairlie
Council Secretary

*****PLEASE SEE PAGE 15 FOR THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL SURVEY.**



September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
 Special Envelope: Good Samaritan (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)			
4 Pentecost 13 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service	5 Labor Day 6:00PM Executive Meeting	6 6:30PM Rachel Circle	7
11 Pentecost 14 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service	12 6:00PM Council Meeting	13 6:30AM Food Pantry	14
18 Pentecost 15 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - FAIR WEEK 9:15AM Worship Service	19 	20 9:00AM Quilting	21
25 Pentecost 16 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service	26	27 6:30AM Food Pantry 9:00AM Quilting	28

ember



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Office Closed 10:00AM Naomi Circle	2 Office Closed	3
	8 Office Closed 2:00PM Ladies Aid	9 Office Closed	10
	15 Office Closed	16 Office Closed	17
	22 Office Closed	23 Office Closed	24
	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome back to Sunday School! I hope you all had a restful summer and have had a great start back to school. We kicked off the new school year with Rally Day and a blessing of backpacks to remind us that God's got our back wherever we go. Thank you to all who helped with getting our school year started right with some delicious ice cream sundaes!

Our rotations this fall will focus on characters that helped shape the Old Testament of the Bible. We look forward to cooking, crafting, and exploring science as we learn more about these important from the Bible.

A few reminders about class changes for the fall:

Sunday School will begin at 8:30 AM with opening on the stage as usual. We will not have classes on September 18 due to the Washington County Fair.

We are in need of teachers to help with the Sunday school program and our children would love to see new faces leading a rotation. If you would like to lead a cooking class, craft, or even a science rotation I know the children would absolutely adore seeing you in Sunday school! If you have a question about rotations or would like to volunteer I would LOVE to hear from you.

In His Name,
Megan Schramme
(979)421-0904



*The following are sharing their time
and talents for the month of September:*

COMMUNION BREAD Donna Bentke

ALTAR PREPARATION Carolyn Kessel, Myrtle Randermann

FAMILY AID Deanna Giese

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE Debra Westerfeld, Janet Wehring

SANCTUARY PREP Rachel Church, Sherry Randermann

CHURCH TELLERS Cathy Boeker, Jeannie Kroll

SCREEN CREW Janice Fairlie, Jennifer Schroeder

USHERS Steve & Donna Skrla, The Huckert Family

2022 ST JOHN COUNCIL MEMBERS

President Kenneth Seeker
Vice-President Herbert Klatte, Jr.
Treasurer Sharon Neutzler
Secretary Janice Fairlie
Community Concerns India Randermann
Evangelism Josh Clay
Financial Secretary Jeannie Kroll
Parish Ed. Jennifer Schroeder
Property Steve Skrla
Worship & Music Mary Longhofer



2022 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex for anyone who has been unable to pick theirs up! The Flower Chart has been posted in the Annex. We have several spots available, so please sign up if you are able.



Did you know that there are more than 15 ways you can volunteer your time on a committee or individually in your church? Consider becoming a volunteer!



September Quilting Schedule
Meeting at 9:00AM on
September 20th & 27th.
 Sandy Ordner will be hosting.



Naomi Circle meets on the 1st Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be September 1st at 2:00PM.
Rachel Circle meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be September 6th at 6:30PM.

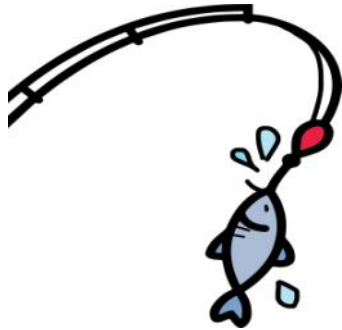


Washington
 County
 Fair

No Sunday School
Sunday, September 18th



St John Lutheran Prairie Hill Food Pantry
Upcoming Dates:
September 13th & 27th from 6:30AM-8:00AM



KID FISH

**KID FISH IS
SCHEDULED FOR
OCTOBER 22ND.**



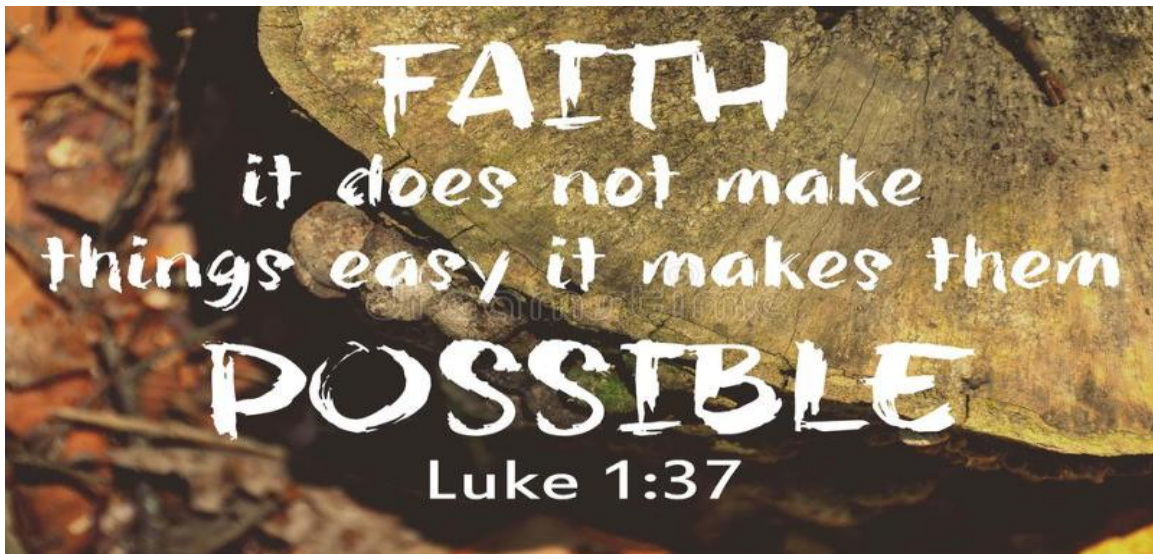
**LOOK FOR MORE
DETAILS IN THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER.**



*A very Happy
Birthday to those
members celebrating
September birthdays.*

Thoughts to Live By

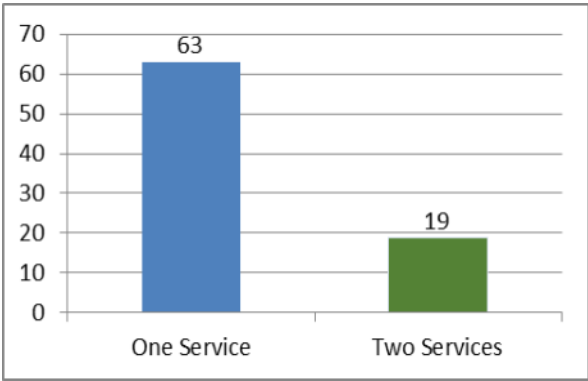
There is
always
something
to be
thankful
for



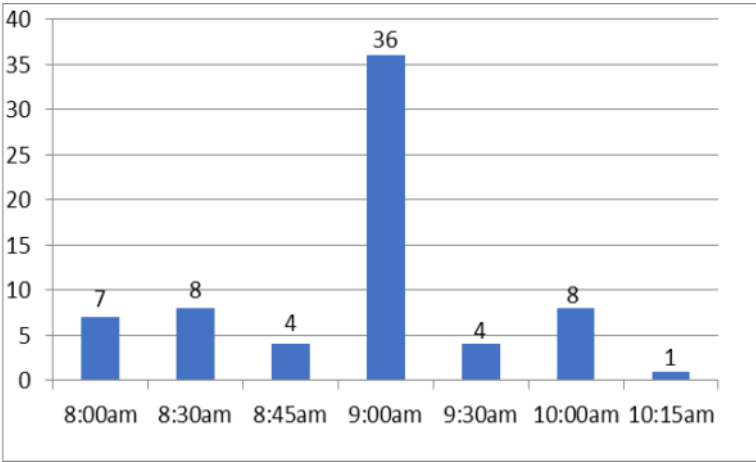
SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to those who completed the Worship/Sunday School survey. A total of 90 forms were received. Below are the results as to whether to have one worship service or two services. *Please note that not everyone who turned in a form gave their opinion on this question.*

The 19 who wanted two services suggested that service times go back to the way it was prior to the pandemic, with worship services at 8:00am and 10:05am, and Sunday School at 9:00am.



Of those who only wanted one service, the following worship times were suggested.



Please note that the discrepancy in the total votes on “one service” time versus the totals here is due to members listing two options for start times of the single service. In this case, both start times were counted.

Based upon the results, the Church Council voted to begin **Sunday School at 8:30am with one Worship Service to follow at 9:15am** until further directed.

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**St John Lutheran Church
of Prairie Hill**
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Brenham, TX 77833
www.stjohnprairiehill.org
979-836-8666



The deadline for the
September newsletter is:
September 19th
Submissions received after
this date will be included if
time and space allow.
Thank you!

September



**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**