

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 10

October 2022

Volume 15 Issue 10
October 2022



For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." --- Romans 1:17 (ESV)

Many believe the start of the Reformation began on October 31, 1517. The renown pastor and professor of New Testament Studies at Wittenberg Seminary marched up to the chapel door of the university. With hammer in hand, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther nailed a parchment with 95 theses inscribed upon it to the chapel door. The purpose was to stir an academic debate among his colleagues.

Luther's writing became public because of Johannes Gutenberg. In 1455, Johannes invents a press known as the Gutenberg press. The efficiency of this press enables pamphlets and books to be mass produced inexpensively and with great speed. Luther's 95 Theses was mass produced and spread throughout Germany and Europe like fire on dry grass. And so, the Reformation began.

Luther never intended for the church to become divided. His purpose was to bring the church back to God and God's Holy Word, the Bible. He was so impacted by Paul's writing lifting up God's generosity of graces. Romans 1:17 became the catalyst for Luther's Biblical understanding of salvation. He shifted from the sense of "salvation comes from my deeds by keeping God's law" to "We are saved by God's gracious acts through the cross and resurrection of Christ Jesus." This German Augustinian monk sought to bring the church back to the revelation "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8)."

While at the Diet of Worms in Augsburg, Luther was challenged by Charles V and the Johann Eck, Pope Leo X's representative, to recant his writing. This sagely pastor could not turn his back from God or God's Word. Luther while

holding the Bible in his hand, declared, "I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is bound to the Word of God... I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me. Amen."

Luther fastens himself to God, believing in Jesus, and faithfully placing his life into God's care! Like Luther, we too remain secured to God and His Word. We too stand for God and God's Word! Our time spent each week in the divine service, that is worship, opens our very soul, so that we can hear God's message given to us through the Liturgy (compilation of scripture verses), scripture readings, and the sermon. We gather in the sanctuary to be in the presence of God, and to be blessed by his gracious gospel of salvation demonstrated by forgiving us in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Our October worship services will focus on a sermon series entitled Faith and Family. Each week we will explore God's gift of marriage, Christian Parenting, Children Living in Faith, the Life of a Single Christian, and the Christian Family, AKA the Church. Here is our preaching schedule for October.

October 2 - Faith and Family: Marriage

October 9 - Faith and Family: Parenting

October 17 - Faith and Family: Children

October 23 - Faith and Family: Single Life

October 30 - Faith and Family: Christian Family of Faith

Join us as we celebrate the God's gift of family.

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 October

| October | | FIRST READING | RESPONSIVE | SECOND READING | GOSPEL |
|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 2 | Pentecost 17 | Genesis 2:18-24 | Psalm 100 | Ephesians 5:21-33 | Mark 10:6-9 |
| 9 | Pentecost 18 | Deuteronomy 6:6-9 | Psalm 127 | Hebrews 12:7-11 | Matthew 19:13-15 |
| 16 | Pentecost 19 | Proverbs 1:8-10 | Psalm 119:1-8 | Ephesians 6:1-3 | Matthew 15:1-9 |
| 23 | Pentecost 20 | Isaiah 41:8-10 | Psalm 37:1-6 | 1 Corinthians 7:6-8 | Matthew 6:25-34 |
| 30 | Reformation Sunday | Revelation 14:6-7 | Psalm 46 | Romans 3:19-28 | John 8:31-36 |

****The month of October begins a Faith and Family Series. Each week's sermon will be based on a different sermon topic beginning with Faith and Family in marriage, in parenting, with children, single life and conclude the month with the Christian family of faith.**



| Oct | Acolyte | Layreader | Flowers Given By |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------|--|
| 2 | Owen Finke | Charles Gaskamp | <i>Kaden Seeker in honor of his birthday</i> |
| 9 | Irelyn Antkowiak | Connie Rohde | <i>Steven & Margie Witt in memory of Clarence Witt</i> |
| 16 | Logan Boeker | Katie Seeker | <i>Colton & Lauren Maass in memory of their grandmother, Gayle Kaase</i> |
| 23 | Kannon Koehler | Sandy Ordner | <i>Gil & Michelle Janner in honor of their wedding anniversary</i> |
| 30 | Izzy Sommerfield | Jennifer Anderson | <i>Kevin & Anna Finke</i> |



Baptismal Anniversaries

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 10/01/1972 Stephanie Follis | 10/12/1958 Mary Roesse | 10/22/2006 Soli Schramme |
| 10/01/1989 Tara Reuter | 10/12/1980 Sara Richter | 10/23/1938 Tom Bentke |
| 10/01/1995 Tatum Lackey | 10/12/1985 Ryan Horton | 10/23/1982 Robert Derkowski |
| 10/02/2011 Hunter Janner | 10/12/2014 Rilynn Schroeder | 10/24/2021 Chance Maass |
| 10/02/1966 Kevin Finke | 10/15/1939 Janet Wehring | 10/25/1936 Helen Schulze |
| 10/02/1960 Sandy Kite | 10/15/1950 Martin Reisner | 10/25/2015 Camryn Thumann |
| 10/02/1960 Donna Skrla | 10/15/1989 William Schramme | 10/26/1930 Allene Holtkamp |
| 10/02/1983 Kevin Meyer | 10/16/1955 Florence Wolff | 10/26/1959 Debra Hanath |
| 10/02/1955 Glenda Stegent | 10/16/2005 Jake Hatfield | 10/26/2008 Logun Tosta |
| 10/03/2004 Star Cavner | 10/18/1964 Brian Knebel | 10/27/1985 Chris Schramme |
| 10/04/1953 Fred Gaskamp | 10/18/1992 Cody Schroeder | 10/28/1951 Jimmie Dreyer |
| 10/04/2014 Ian Hill | 10/19/1944 Dorothy Bentke | 10/28/1951 Connie Rohde |
| 10/05/1947 Peggy Bosse | 10/19/1958 Betty Feldmann | 10/28/2012 Reegan Huckert |
| 10/05/1930 Helen Gaskamp | 10/20/1974 Jeannie Kroll | 10/29/2006 Corbin Janner |
| 10/05/1930 Ella Ruemke | 10/21/1953 Carol Haarmeyer | 10/29/2006 Brayden Rosenbaum |
| 10/07/1956 Judy Grote | 10/21/1984 Jenna Hohlt | 10/30/2011 Jax Antkowiak |
| 10/07/2012 Sydney Wagner | 10/22/1939 Doris Haarmeyer | 10/31/1982 Cammie Guzman |
| 10/08/2017 Lexi Hohlt | 10/22/1978 Joshua Clay | 10/31/2004 Audra Kroll |
| 10/09/1944 Wesley Westerfeld | 10/22/2006 Olivia Schramme | |

Wedding Anniversaries



| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 10/01/1966 Wesley & Carol Westerfeld | 10/21/2017 Ryan & Cassie Lynch |
| 10/01/2011 Daniel & India Randermann | 10/23/1976 Gary & Anne Merkel |
| 10/13/1990 Patti & Roy Horton | 10/25/1997 Gilbert & Michelle Janner |
| 10/16/2010 Johanna & Chance Wilkerson | 10/29/2006 Sondra & Gerardo Hernandez |
| 10/17/1981 Gerald & Brenda Herrmann | 10/30/1999 Tim & Tammy Hatfield |
| 10/17/2009 Travis & Cori Kmiec | |

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

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

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes for September 2022**

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on September 12, 2022, at 6:00 pm. Council Vice-President, Herbert Klatte Jr., called the meeting to order prior to the President's arrival. Pastor Norm Sulaica opened with scripture and prayer. All members except Jennifer Schroeder were present. The August minutes were approved as distributed.

Unfinished Business

- **Motion** to approve the Sexual Misconduct Policy drafted by Sharon Neutzler and Pastor Norm, to comply with insurance requirements by our insurance carrier, Heffernan Religious Institution Program and to appoint the Community Concerns Chairperson to oversee its implementation. **MSC.** *A limited number of printed copies will be available at the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting for the congregation's information, or upon request, a copy may be emailed to members.*
- **Motion** to approve the Pastor's Discretionary Fund Guidelines drafted by Sharon Neutzler and Pastor Norm. **MSC.**

New Business

- **Motion** to accept as new members, Bobby Gene and Susi Bentke. **MSC.**
- **Text Vote on September 20, 2022: Motion to approve new member, Darlene Finke Kelly. MSC.**
- **Motion** to approve the following donations recommended by the Memorial Committee from the Memorial Funds. **MSC.**
 - ◊ Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church: \$2,000
 - ◊ NALC Missionary Adoption Program (MAP): \$2,000
 - ◊ NALC Seminary (NALS): \$2,000
 - ◊ NALC Disaster Response Warehouse in Rosenberg: \$1,000
 - ◊ St. John Lutheran Church Building Fund: \$2,000 (*originally earmarked for the 2021 Parish Hall Air Conditioning project which has since been tabled by council*)
- **Motion** to recommend approval of the Budget Committee's draft of the 2023 Mission Spending Plan at the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting. **MSC.**
- **Motion** to change the November 2022 Special Envelope designee from World Hunger, an ELCA-sponsored organization, to NALC Seminary (NALS) for its Seminarian Scholarships in an effort to relieve the tuition burden of its seminary students. **MSC.**
- **Motion** to recommend approval of Special Envelope designees by the congregation at its Semi-Annual Meeting. **MSC.**
- **Motion** to move the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting for this year from the third Sunday in October (October 16) to the 4th Sunday (October 23) to allow Pastor Norm the opportunity to assist in the installation of Abiding Word's pastor on the 16th. **MSC.**
- **Motion** to approve the agenda for the October 23rd Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting to be held following worship service. **MSC.**
- **Motion** to set Pies and Prayers Thanksgiving Service for Wednesday, November 23, with pie served at 6pm and prayer service following at 6:30pm. **MSC.**
- **Motion** to set Christmas Service schedule as follows: Christmas Eve Children's Program at 4:30pm, with homily and holy communion to follow; Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00pm with full worship service and holy communion. Christmas Day Services will be Sunday morning at regular worship time of 9:15am with holy communion. No Sunday School is scheduled for that day. **MSC.**
- **Text Vote on September 18, 2022: Motion** to approve the county's use of the church facility as a polling place for the November 8 General Election. **MSC.**

Committee Reports:

Treasurer Report: **Sharon Neutzler**
Report as submitted.

Financial Secretary Report **Jeannie Kroll**
For month of August, the total Weekly Giving Deposits were \$7,865 and Direct Deposits were \$4,232.63 for a total giving of \$12,097.63.

Community Concerns Report **India Randermann**
Food Pantry served 61 families (125 people) at two distributions in August. The ladies of the church served at funerals for Hilda Horstmann on August 23 with approximately 65 people served and for Raymond Walker on August 24 with approximately 110 people served.

Worship and Music Report **Mary Longhofer**
Working on filling usher duties for 2023.

Parish Education Report **Jennifer Schroeder**
No report.

Youth Report **Herbert Klatt Jr.**
Family Fish Fest (for all ages) will be Saturday, October 22. More information will be provided in the newsletter and bulletins.

Evangelism Report **Josh Clay**
Good Neighbor Sunday will be November 13. Invite your friends and neighbors to worship and to stay for a dine-in Thanksgiving meal. To go plates will be available but there will not be a drive-through.

Youth will deliver meals to the shut-ins.

Property Report **Steve Skrla**
Lightning struck the amplifier during a recent storm, and knocked out portions of the sound board that controlled the lectern mic, pastor's mic, the speakers, etc. Solutions In Sound provided on-site service to get us back in operation. Insurance policy will be reviewed for coverage.

Pastor's Report **Pr. Norm Sulaica**

- Offered Blessing of the Animals at the Washington County Fair.
- Beginning Weekly Bible Study on Luther's Small Catechism, beginning Monday, October 3, at 10am. A similar study will be offered from January 4 through February 15, on Wednesday evenings at 7pm.
- Faith and Family Sermon Series will be given the first 4 Sundays in October on Marriage, Parenting, Kids, and Being Single.
- Presided at the graveside services for Kaylyn Lehmann Hanath at St. Matthew of Sandy Hill.
- Will preside at Abiding Word's pastor's installation service on October 16, following conducting an abbreviated service for Prairie Hill at its normal worship time.
- Will attend NALC Texas Pastor's Fall Retreat from October 18-20.
- New members will be welcomed at the September 25th worship service.




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

Motion to adjourn. **MSC.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Fairlie
Council Secretary




October

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|
|  <p>Special Envelope: CASA for Kids</p> | | | |
| <p>2 Pentecost 17 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service Parish Education Meeting after worship service</p> | <p>3 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Executive Meeting</p> | <p>4 6:30PM Rachel Circle</p> | <p>5 5:00PM Cor Class</p> |
| <p>9 Pentecost 18 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service</p> | <p>10 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Council Meeting</p> | <p>11 6:30AM Food Pantry</p> | <p>12 5:00PM Cor Class</p> |
| <p>16 Pentecost 19 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service</p> | <p>17 10:00AM Bible Study</p>  | <p>18 9:00AM Quilting</p> | <p>19 No Confirm</p> |
| <p>23 Pentecost 20 7:30AM-Noon Blood Drive 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service Semi-Annual Meeting after worship service</p> | <p>24 10:00AM Bible Study</p> | <p>25 6:30AM Food Pantry 9:00AM Quilting</p> | <p>26 5:00PM Cor Class</p> |
| <p>30 Reformation Sunday 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service</p> | <p>31 10:00AM Bible Study</p> |  | |

ber



WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | | 1 |
| Confirmation | 6 Office Closed 10:00AM Naomi Circle | 7 Office Closed | 8 |
| Confirmation | 13 Office Closed 2:00PM Ladies Aid | 14 Office Closed Activity Center Reserved | 15 Finke/Krause Wedding |
| Education Class | 20 Office Closed | 21 Office Closed | 22 7:00AM Family Fish Fest  |
| Confirmation | 27 Office Closed | 28 Office Closed | 29 |
| | | | |

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Fall! I want to congratulate all of our students who participated in the Washington County Fair this year. From arts and crafts to rabbits and pigs, we had a great representation of our St. John family and Prairie Hill 4H.

Our rotations this month will focus on the Old Testament characters Queen Esther, Daniel, and Moses. We look forward to cooking, crafting, and exploring science as we learn more about these important people from the Bible.

There will be an important Parish Ed meeting on October 2 following the church service regarding event planning and future programming for Sunday School. All parents of Sunday School aged children are encouraged to attend.

In order to continue having a successful Sunday School program for our children, we are looking for individuals in our church family to help lead a lesson. 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**

Megan Schramme



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

COMMUNION BREAD Donna Bentke

ALTAR PREPARATION Carolyn Kessel, Myrtle Randermann

FAMILY AID Connie Rohde

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE Debra Westerfeld, Janet Wehring

SANCTUARY PREP Rachel Church, Sherry Randermann

CHURCH TELLERS Christin Seeker, Sandy Ordner

SCREEN CREW Jennifer Schroeder, Anna Finke

USHERS Colton Maass 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.



Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, October 23, following worship service

The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be the fourth Sunday of October in lieu of the 3rd Sunday in October in order to allow Pastor to preside at the installation of Abiding Word's pastor on October 16. Please see the enclosed inserts for information regarding the meeting.



October Quilting Schedule

**Meeting at 9:00AM on
October 18th & 25th.**

Dorothy Haevischer will be hosting.



Rachel Circle meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be October 4th at 6:30PM.

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

Blood Drive

A BLOOD DRIVE IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 23RD FROM 7:30AM-NOON. LOOK FOR THE SIGN-UP SHEETS IN THE NARTHEX IN THE COMING WEEKS.

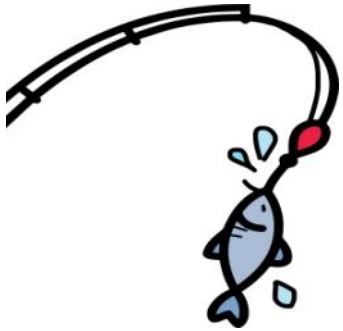


St John Lutheran Prairie Hill Food Pantry

Upcoming Dates:

October 11th & 25th from 6:30AM-8:00AM

**FAMILY FISH FEST
(FORMERLY KID FISH)
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND**



Join us for

7:00am – REGISTRATION
NOON -WEIGH-IN
6:00pm – FISH FRY MEAL
AGES 0-99
Fishing at select ponds only
Prizes will be awarded at meal
Hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church

BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Beginning Monday, October 3rd, at 10:00am,
Pastor Norm will lead a weekly Bible study
based on Luther's Small Catechism.

We welcome you to join us.

*A very **Happy Birthday** to all
members
celebrating*



October birthdays.



Choir Practice

We are inviting all voices to come and be part of St. John's Choir. The first practice will be held Wednesday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you!



Mary Longhofer and Laura Sulaica



Dates to remember in the coming months

Sunday, October 2nd

Parish Committee Meeting after worship service

Monday, October 3rd

10:00AM weekly Bible series begins

Saturday, October 22nd

Family Fish Fest (formerly Kid Fish)

Sunday, October 23rd

7:30AM-12:00PM Blood Drive

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting after worship service, information provided with this newsletter

Sunday, November 13th

Good Neighbor Sunday meal after worship service

Wednesday, November 23rd

6:00PM Pies & Prayers follow by worship service at 6:30PM

Saturday, December 24th

4:30PM Christmas Youth Program with Communion

7:00PM Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25th

9:15AM Christmas Day Service





O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life. May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others. May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.

**St John Lutheran Church
of Prairie Hill**

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The deadline for the
October newsletter is:

October 17th

Submissions received after
this date will be included if
time and space allow.

Thank you!



**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**