

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 16, Number 10

October, 2023



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
– Psalm 23

Can we agree the world revolves around change? Our culture travels at lightspeed changing our beliefs, our morals, and our values. The use of respectful words to your neighbor is replaced with cursing or degrading people. No cash bail policies allow criminals to be released on the day of their arrest, which allows for more crimes to be committed. The southern border is now a nonstop flow of humanity moving from the south to the north. The rule of law is being taken down and replaced with societal or political interest.

During World War II, the English government knew that Hitler was planning to invade the British Islands. They encouraged their people to prepare for the invasion and they did several things: they boosted their defenses, they put guards on constant watch, and they developed early warning systems and evacuation routes.

They did one more thing - the government passed a law requiring every community to take down all the road signs and any sign that named any town or village. They knew the Germans had maps of England, but if they couldn't locate themselves on those maps, they would be slowed in their progress as they approached London. Without any sign or any point of reference, the troops would just wander aimlessly around.

Our world and culture do that to us. They take our road signs away. And we live our lives lost; not knowing where we are and don't know how to get to where we need to go, so husbands and wives will wander away from their marriages. Children will wander away from their parents. People will walk off cliffs of drugs, alcohol, or materialism. Sheep need guidance. We need direction and leadership.

That is the job of the shepherd. What is the second verse in the twenty-third Psalm? " ² *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*" Our Good Shepherd Jesus strengthens us with hope and freedom! Our troubles do not have to paralyze us. Our daily plights do not have to incapacitate us. We have hope through our Good Shepherd Jesus! Our difficulties do not have to petrify us. We do not face our daily woes alone. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is with us to strengthen us, encourage us, guides us, and especially lead us to greener pastures and still waters. Jesus comes to show us a better, godly way!

Soli Deo Gloria - to the Glory of God.
Pastor Norm

Contact Information for Pastor Norm

Cell Phone Number (361) 362-9108 Or Email: pastornorm2003@yahoo.com

Photo Directory



Photo Directory pictures will be on **Thursday, October 5th** and **Friday, October 6th** from 2:00pm-8:30pm. and also on **Saturday, October 7th** from 10:30pm-5:00pm. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex for selecting a time slot.

You may also sign-up on-line at www.ucdir.com.

Instructions for registering online are available in the Narthex. You will need the **church code** and the **church password** to sign-up online. This information is provided on the **Online Scheduling Instructions** in the Narthex.

If you elect to **register for a time slot online**, registration is limited to **Mondays thru Fridays of each week**. Online registrations are closed on the weekends. If you wish to register on a **Saturday** or **Sunday**, you will need to sign-up via the paper sign-ups sheets located in the Narthex or wait until you can go online again on Mondays.

The sign-up sheets are available now.

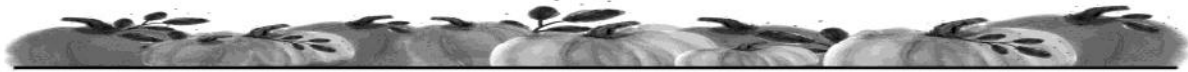


Faith Lessons:

A 5 Week Bible class, 'Faith Lessons on the Promise Land' will begin on **October 5th at 6:00PM**. Filmed on location in Israel by Focus on the Family Films, Faith Lessons is a unique video series that brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance by weaving together the Bible's fascinating historical, cultural, religious, and geographical contexts, teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan.

Readings for October

October		FIRST READING	RESPONSIVE	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
1	Pentecost 18	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	Psalm 25:1-10	Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18	Matthew 21:23-27
8	Pentecost 19	Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalm 80:7-19	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
15	Pentecost 20	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 23	Philippians 4:4-13	Matthew 22:1-14
22	Pentecost 21	Isaiah 45:1-7	Psalm 86:1-9	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
29	Reformation Sunday	Revelation 14:6-7	Psalm 46	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36



Oct	Acolyte	Layreader	Flowers Given By
1	Cayd Wilkerson	Sandy Ordner	<i>Pastor Norm & Laura Sulaica to the Glory of God</i>
8	Addison Westerfeld	Joseph Ordner	<i>Johnny & Sherry Randermann</i>
15	Knowles Koehler	Laura Sulaica	<i>Colton & Lauren Maass in memory of their Mimi</i>
22	Alex Grote	Jennifer Anderson	<i>Steven & Margie Witt in memory of Clarence Witt</i>
29	Wyatt Davis	Katie Seeker	<i>Colton & Lauren Maass in honor of their Wedding Anniversary</i>

Baptismal Anniversaries

10/01/1989 Tara Reuter	10/19/1958 Betty Feldmann
10/01/1995 Tatum Lackey	10/20/1974 Jeannie Kroll
10/02/2011 Hunter Janner	10/21/1953 Carol Haarmeyer
10/02/1966 Kevin Finke	10/21/1984 Jenna Dismukes
10/02/1960 Sandy Kite	10/22/1939 Doris Haarmeyer
10/02/1960 Donna Skrla	10/22/1978 Joshua Clay
10/02/1955 Glenda Stegent	10/23/1938 Tom Bentke
10/03/2004 Star Cavern	10/24/2021 Chance Maass
10/04/1953 Fred Gaskamp	10/25/1936 Helen Schulze
10/05/1930 Helen Gaskamp	10/26/1959 Debra Hanath
10/07/1956 Judy Grote	10/27/1985 Chris Schramme
10/07/2012 Sydney Wagner	10/28/1951 Jimmie Dreyer
10/08/2017 Lexi Hohlt	10/28/1951 Connie Rohde
10/09/1944 Wesley Westerfeld	10/28/2012 Reegan Huckert
10/12/1958 Mary Roesse	10/29/2006 Corbin Janner
10/12/2014 Rilynn Schroeder	10/30/2011 Jax Antkowiak
10/15/1939 Janet Wehring	10/30/1983 Juan Guzman
10/15/1950 Martin Reisner	10/31/1982 Cammie Guzman
10/16/1955 Florence Wolff	10/31/2004 Audra Kroll
10/18/1992 Cody Schroeder	

Wedding Anniversaries

10/01/1966 Wesley & Carol Westerfeld	10/21/2017 Ryan & Cassie Lynch
10/01/2011 Daniel & India Randermann	10/25/1997 Gilbert & Michelle Janner
10/16/2010 Johanna & Chance Wilkerson	10/29/2006 Sondra & Gerardo Hernandez
10/17/1981 Gerald & Brenda Herrmann	



*A very Happy Birthday to all
celebrating in October.*

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 Herbert Klatte, Jr. (936) 801-8663

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2023**

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on September 11, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Council President Herbert Klatte, Jr., called the meeting to order. Pastor Norm Sulai opened with scripture and prayer. All current members were present except Ken Seeker, Rita Gaskamp and Josh Clay.

Motion to approve the August minutes as read. **MSC**

Unfinished Business

Internet service: T Mobile did not work, we will try Verizon and Virginia Altman to arrange.

New desk top computer for the office: Jeannie Kroll will contact Computer Helpers.

Sprinkler system: Virginia Altman to ask her yard man for an estimate. A new system may be better than trying to repair the old.

New Business

Jerry and Ruth Ziesmer to be recognized in the newsletter for buying plates for Veterans in the cemetery.

Motion to accept proposed 2024 budget with one line item change. To be presented to the congregation at the October Semi Annual meeting. **MSC**

Motion to approve proposed special envelopes for 2024: **MSC**

January - NALC Disaster Response

February - Bread Partners

March - Habitat for Humanity

April - Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church

May - Food Pantry

June - Great Commission Fund of the NALC

July - St. John Youth

August - Cemetery Fund

September - Pastor's Discretionary Fund

October - St. John Building Fund

November - NALC Seminary (NALS)

December - St. John Quilters

Council recommends the following nominations:

President Elect: open

Treasurer: Regina Holtkamp

Evangelism: open

Community Concerns: Gayle Bednar

Financial Secretary: open

Sunday school Superintendent: Kaley Bednar

Motion to approve the meeting agenda draft for the October Semi Annual meeting, with changes. **MSC**

Motion to place a full color newspaper ad in the Brenham Banner Fall/Winter Guide to be printed on September 28, 2023. Cost for 1/4 page ad is \$265. Ad will appear on the website for 6 months as well as printed copy. **MSC**

For Information

Photo Directory October 5 to 7, 2023

Kid Fish October 21, 2023

Oktoberfest October 22, 2023

Good Neighbor Sunday, November 12, 2023

Blood Drive December 10, 2023

Committee Reports:

Treasurer Report

Sharon Neutzler

Report as submitted.

Financial Secretary Report**Jeannie Kroll**

For the month of August, the total Weekly Giving Deposits were \$14,815.00, special envelopes to Cemetery Fund \$155.00, plus loose offering of \$265.00 and Direct Deposits were \$4164.68 for a total giving of \$19,399.68. (The sum of \$23,150 monthly is needed to meet the 2023 budget approved at the October semi-annual congregational meeting.)

Community Concerns Report**India Randermann**

Food Pantry served 86 families (154 people) at two distributions in August.

Funerals in August: Cole Dismukes August 8, 2023, 250 served; Peggy Bosse August 19, 2023, 54 served.

Next Blood Drive is set for December 10, 2023.

Worship and Music Report**Virginia Altman**

No report

Parish Education Report**Stephanie Koehler**

No Sunday school September 24, 2023, Sunday after the fair.

Cindy Clay needs teachers, she is doing everything without help currently.

Cindy Clay will purchase new curriculum that has better videos and activities. \$800.

Will include more singing in the future.

Youth Report**Kenneth Seeker**

Pastor reported on the outing to Big Shots with 8 youth and 3 adults.

Evangelism Report**Josh Clay**

Kenneth Seeker and Josh are working on the Kid Fish scheduled for Saturday, October 21.

Property Report**Colton Maass**

Bluebonnet Electric is concerned about one of our pine trees hitting the wires. Will get a bid for trimming.

Sagging church window to be repaired soon.

Will work with Virginia on the sprinkler lines.

Steeple light is fixed.

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

Visitations: Nursing home/shut ins visits 16, other visits 35

Motion to accept the following new members:

Glen Schulz;

Leonard (Poncho) and Julie Renfro Dismukes;

David and Debbie Koch. **MSC**

Renewal of marriage vows for Craig and Lindsey Harrison

God Squad - for 3rd to 6th graders, starts tomorrow.

Blessing of the Animals for Fair Week, September 17 and 18 at 7:30 am

Faith Lessons evening class (5 weeks) begins 6 pm on Thursday, October 5, 2023.

Pastor's Weight-A-Thon fundraiser begins this Sunday.

Bod 4 God class begins September 25 at 6 pm.

Confirmation 2023-2024 will have 7 youth.

St. Matthew: Ordination Under Special Circumstance in October.

Personal: Weekend off: September 21 to 24 or October 12 to 15, 2023. Worship leader will be Steve Skrla.

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


Motion to adjourn. **MSC**. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

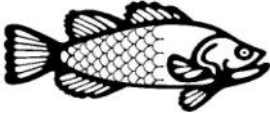

Respectfully Submitted,

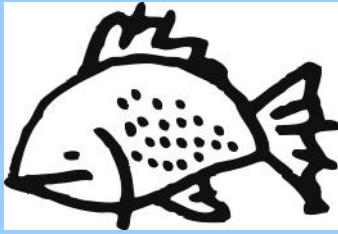
Stephanie Koehler for

Rita Gaskamp

Council Secretary

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
		<i>October</i>					
1 Pentecost 18 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service 12:30PM Youth Luther League 4:00 Young Women's Circle		2 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Executive Meeting 6:00PM Bod4God		3 9:00AM Music Planning Team 4:30PM God Squad 6:30PM Rachel Circle		4 5:00PM Co Class 6:30PM Ch	
8 Pentecost 19 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service		9 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Council Meeting 7:00PM Jump Start		10 6:30AM Food Pantry 9:00AM Music Planning Team		11 2:00PM Ga 5:00PM Co Class 6:30PM Ch	
15 Pentecost 20 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service		16 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Bod4God *****NEWSLETTER DEADLINE*****		17 9:00AM Quilting 9:00AM Music Planning Team		18 5:00PM Co Class 6:30PM Ch	
22 Pentecost 21 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service Semi-Annual Meeting after worship service 3:00PM Octoberfest		23 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Bod4God		24 6:30AM Food Pantry 9:00AM Quilting 9:00AM Music Planning Team		25 5:00PM Co Class 6:30PM Ch	
29 Reformation Sunday 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service		30 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Bod4God		31 9:00AM Music Planning Team 			

WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1
Confirmation Worship Practice	5 Office Closed 10:00AM Naomi Circle 6:00PM Faith Lessons Bible Study	6 Office Closed		7
	PHOTO	DIRECTORY PICTURES AT		ACTIVITY CENTER
Home Day Confirmation Worship Practice	12 Office Closed 2:00PM Ladies Aid 6:00PM Faith Lessons Bible Study	13 Office Closed Activity Center Reserved		14 8:00AM Men's Ministry Breakfast **Wedding**
Confirmation Worship Practice	19 Office Closed 6:00PM Faith Lessons Bible Study	20 Office Closed		21 7:00AM Family Fish Fest 
Confirmation Worship Practice	26 Office Closed 6:00PM Faith Lessons Bible Study	27 Office Closed		28
	<u>October</u> <u>Special</u> <u>Envelope</u> CASA for Kids			



FAMILY FISH FEST (FORMERLY KID FISH)

OCTOBER 21ST

7:00AM REGISTRATION

12:00PM WEIGH-IN

6:00PM FISH FRY MEAL

**FISHING AT SELECT PONDS ONLY. PRIZES WILL BE
AWARDED AT THE MEAL. AGES 0-99.**

Semi-Annual Meeting

**The Semi-Annual Congregational meeting
will be held on Sunday, October 22, 2023
after the worship service. The agenda, the
meeting minutes from January 23, 2023
and the budget information are enclosed
with this newsletter.**

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 showing animals, we had a great representation of our St. John family.

We are working in a new curriculum called think orange for our older age group. The younger age group learned about seven days of creation and are having a great time in their class which has been led by Johanna Wilkerson.

In October we are looking at doing a trunk or treat on October 29th in the afternoon. Sign up for the Christmas program will also start next month as we will start practices in November.

**In His Name,
Cynthia Clay**



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

ALTAR PREPARATION Carolyn Kessel, Laura Sulaica

FAMILY AID Connie Rohde, Susi Bentke, Betty Feldmann, Dorothy Haevischer, Dorothy Meyer,
Myrtle Randermann

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE Debra Westerfeld, Janet Wehring

SANCTUARY PREP Rachel Church, Sherry Randermann

CHURCH TELLERS Christin Seeker, Catherine Klatte

SCREEN CREW Steve Skrla, Barnay Glaesmann

USHERS Colton Maass Family, Janice Fairlie

LADIES AID Carolyn Kessel, Susi Bentke

NAOMI CIRCLE Deanna Giese, Donna Bentke

QUILTERS Dorothy Haevischer

EUCCHARIST TEAM Linda Schulze, Carolyn Kessel, Karen Rosenbaum, Cookie Engeling, Diana
Williams, Connie Rohde

COMMUNION BREAD Becky Schulze

Thank you to all who volunteer and continue to volunteer within the
church, behind the scenes.



*Quilters meet October 17th & 24th. Dorothy
Haevischer will serve as hostess.*



Luther League Youth will
meet on Sunday, October 1st at
12:30PM at Mr. Gatti's, followed
by bowling at Rosebowl Lanes at
2:00PM. Join us for the fun and
fellowship.

Church Gift Shop and Library

Take the opportunity to visit the library, located across from the Pastor's office! Come by to see the many items available by donation. There are great gift ideas. New items are available and seasonal items for Fall are coming soon. Books for children and adults can be checked out. Come by and see what is available!



Octoberfest



St John's Octoberfest will be held October 22nd from 3:00-6:00 p.m. with German music by Allison Crowson's band from 3:00-5:00. German food will be served from 3:00-5:30, and the Bazaar and Silent Auction will be held from 3:00-5:30. There will also be kids' crafts, craft beer, and lawn games, so bring your lawn chairs and join the fun!

Sign up sheets are in the Narthex for those planning to attend and for what items will be donated, both will help with planning. Also please bring any donated items for the Bazaar or Silent Auction to the Parish Hall (entering through the double doors) Saturday, October 21st from 1:00-4:00 p.m. as work will begin to arrange these items for the Octoberfest Bazaar. Again, items may be crafted, baked, or canned. Thank you ahead for all you may share. All donations from this event will go towards the Camp/Retreat Fund.

2023 St John Council Members

President	Herbert Klatte, Jr.	Evangelism.....	Josh Clay
Vice-President	Kenneth Seeker	Financial Secretary.....	Jeannie Kroll
Treasurer.....	Sharon Neutzler	Parish Ed.....	Stephanie Koehler
Secretary.....	Rita Gaskamp	Property.....	Colton Maass
Community Concerns.....	India Randermann	Worship & Music.....	Virginia Altman

Game Day

Each 2nd Wednesday of the month, there will be a Game Day at the church from 2:00pm - 5:00pm. The next Game Day is October 11th. Join us for fun, games and fellowship. All ages are welcome.



Jump Start

Meeting on October 9th
11th at 7:00PM.



Naomi Circle
The Naomi Circle will
meet at 10:00AM on
October 5th.

Ladies Aid
Meeting on October 12th at
2:00PM.



Bible Study Series

A weekly Bible study is being held each Monday at 10:00AM.
Please join in this learning opportunity and for the fellowship.



Men's Ministry

Please join us at 8:00AM on Saturday
October 14th for breakfast, devotion, and
fellowship.

God Squad

A new after school monthly event at St. John is God Squad.

God Squad is a 3rd through 6th grade youth gathering centered around "Faith, Food, and Fun." The next monthly gathering will be Tuesday, October 3rd at 4:30pm, meeting monthly on the first Tuesday of the month. Should you want to share in this ministry, we invite you to come and help Laura with snacks and drinks. Or if you enjoy activities, please join Pastor Norm as we encourage our youth to burn away their after-school energy.

Bod4God

Pastor stepped onto the scale on September 17th. for his weigh-in. The scale showed 298lbs, with a commitment from Pastor Norm for support to our youth in going to summer camp..

On September 25th, a new special event grounded in Scripture and Weight Loss began. The class is based on events in the life of Pastor Steve Rynolds. Steve had been overweight all his life. Driven by his declining health, Steve began to study Scripture. He discovered four keys to unlocking the door to health and fitness:

1. Dedication - Honoring God with Your Body
2. Inspiration - Motivating Yourself for Change
3. Eat and Exercise - Managing Your Habits
4. Team - Building Your Circle of Support

Please pray for this ministry. Sign-up sheets to support Bod4God will be in the Narthex and will remain there through this event. You can make a financial commitment for 50 Cents for ever pound Pastor Norm loses. You may be bold and commit to \$5, \$10, or even \$20 a pound. Pastor Norm and Laura invite you to join them on this journey of faith and weight loss ministry. We will have a sign-up sheet available in the church narthex.

Food Pantry Upcoming Dates

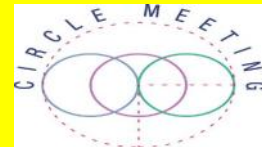
October 10th and 24th from 6:30AM-8:00AM.





*The Young Women's Circle will meet on
Sunday, October 1st at 4:00pm.*

Rachel Circle
**Rachel Circle will meet Tuesday, Oc-
tober 3rd at 6:30PM.**



Choir practice is held each Wednesday at 6:30PM. The choir is looking for members of the congregation to join and share their voices. If you would like to join, we sing on the last Sunday of each month. Come share your talent.

**St John Lutheran Church
of Prairie Hill**

6605 Old Independence Rd.
Brenham, TX 77833

www.stjohnprairiehill.org

979-836-8666



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The deadline for the
October newsletter is:

October 16th

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

Thank you!



**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**