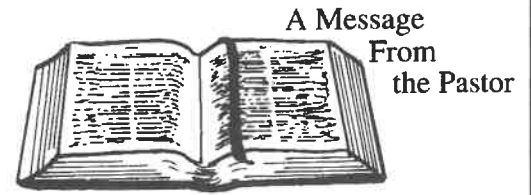




'Christ's Family Reaching Out In Love'



ENDURE

The leaves on the trees are beginning to change color and the temperatures are beginning to drop, sure signs that we have entered the season of Fall. But so what? What difference does it really make for all so many of us? The leaves started to bloom on the trees and the temperatures started to rise back in March when we entered the season of Spring. But so what? The leaves were full and the temperatures were warm, sometimes hot, when we entered the season of Summer back in June. But so what? Other than the changing leaves and temperatures, what difference has the changing seasons really made for all so many of us in this year of 2020?

In these Pandemic times, the seasons have come and gone with little of their usual meaning to our lives. Each season would hearken in special events unique to the season: Spring celebrations of Easter, Mother's Day, school sports, parties and graduations. Summer would bring with it vacations, trips, fairs and festivals. Fall should be the time for packed football stadiums, Halloween parties and Trick-or-Treat, Thanksgiving parades and the gathering of families from far and near for Thanksgiving dinners. But this year the Pandemic has negated it all.

What the changing seasons of 2020 has brought to us has been isolation and frustration for the fortunate, and sickness and death for those less so. The mental and emotional health of us all has been challenged. We feel trapped. Hope seems a long way off. A return to the "old" normal anytime soon is a delusion. We can give up. Or we can resolve to endure.

There is an old story from India: One night two frogs found themselves in a dairy. Hopping and jumping around as frogs do, they both jump into a milk pail half full of milk.

After swimming around for some time they tried to get out. But the inside of the pail was too slippery and there was nothing on which they could rest so that they could jump out. One frog thought it was useless trying to swim on, and just gave up hope and sunk and was drowned.

The other carried on swimming, hoping against hope that something would change. He swam around and around, even though he felt tired. By this time the milk, which was full of cream, had become thick. As the frog continued to swim some more, the cream had been stirred so much that it became a solid lump. On this the frog could rest. And from it he was able to finally jump out of the milk pail to safety.

Sound familiar? Trapped, going around in endless circles, little hope but much fatigue. All that is left for us is the challenge to endure as best we can and keep going until something might change for the positive, besides just the seasons of this year.

However, there is something that can give us hope, something that can keep us going, a reason to endure... and that is faith. That faith is fixed upon our Savior and Lord Jesus, as we are told: *"Let us fix*

our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)

The great love of Jesus prompted Him to endure even death on the cross, to give His own life for ours, so to forgive our sins but also to make us His own; to care for us, to provide for us, to lovingly bless us now and forever.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:35, 37-39)

Those first, early Christian believers faced great hardship. They were isolated and rejected by their society. They were persecuted, beaten, imprisoned and even killed. But they endured it all and remained faithful to their Lord Jesus; for His loving grace, His presence with them and in them, strengthened and sustained them.

The seasons of this year continue to change, but seemingly not much else. It has been a most challenging time. Yet we can be glad in that which never changes... the love of our Lord. *“Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.” (Psalm 106:1)*

It is our faith in the loving grace of our Lord Jesus, His presence with us and in us that will strengthen and sustain us and enable us to endure our present challenging times and faithfully serve our Lord in our life.

As the surviving frog of our story, may we continue to move and work in hope of positive change, remaining faithful, so to endure until that better day comes again... through the “love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Together With You... Enduring, Through the Love of Jesus,


Pastor Jeff G. Gavin

SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR

Be sure to set your clocks BACK 1 hour on Saturday evening, October 31, 2020 before you go to bed so you won't be too early for church on Sunday morning!!



It's that time again!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO HELP OTHERS

The St. John Fellowship Club is continuing their food drive for distribution to people who reside in Elk Grove Township, who are less fortunate than ourselves. All non-perishable food items will be taken to the Elk Grove Township Hall Food Pantry (please no "out of date"). Remember also that paper & soap products (shampoo, etc.) are not included in food stamps. *Pet food is also welcome.*

A "deposit basket" is located **in the Cloak Room!** If you have any questions, please call Luther & Jill Legg (847)593-6335.

***COME, VISIT YOUR LORD
AT HIS HOUSE***



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 and 10:30 AM

We do understand that as long as the pandemic is still present and the health risk for contracting the virus remains, we can have our doubts and concerns that keep us from attending worship.

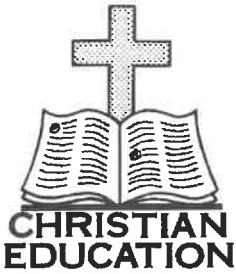
We want to assure you that we have made every effort to keep our worshippers safe. We have been open for worship since June 14 and those who continue to worship with us have felt comfortable in doing so.

We hope you will consider joining us again real soon to hear God's Word, to offer Him thanks and praise and to receive His special blessings through Holy Communion.

***MID-WEEK BIBLE CLASS resumes
Wednesday October 7 - 10:30 am***

***SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES resumes
Sunday October 11 - 9:15 am***

WATCH FOR NOTICES OF ANY UPCOMING MEETINGS



Beginning Sunday, October 11 . . . we hope you will come and join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM** for our **ADULT Sunday Bible Class** in the lower level of the school building . . . ***open question forum - every week.*** Frequent media on our large screen tv. ***We will practice all Covid 19 precautions for the safety of all our classes.***

Beginning Wednesday, October 7 . . . please join us for our **Mid-Week Bible Class** on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the lower level of the school building.

Beginning Sunday, October 11 . . . all children in Preschool and up are invited to join us for **Sunday School for ALL AGES** on **Sundays at 9:15 AM** in the lower level of the school building.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Along with "Birthday Greetings", we also wish a "Happy Anniversary" to those couples who were married during each month by printing their marriage date.

If you are unsure if we might have a record of your wedding date . . . please contact the church office (847-593-7670, ext 1) with this information. We would like to include all of our married couples and wish to them . . . ***"Happy Anniversary"***:

Steve & Valerie Rainbolt	October 4
Curt & Audrey Gerlitz	October 6
Arnie & Marilyn Johansen	October 7
Chuck & Loan Glen	October 10
Ed & Carol Pfungsten	October 12
Timothy & Lynn Koeppen	October 12
Chuck & Roda Schrum	October 14
Al & Liz Schmidt	October 15
Christopher & Julie Klatka	October 17
Mark & Rebecca Ruwe	October 28



If you would like a prayer for a need for yourself or someone you know . . . please call Pastor at (847-593-7670, ext. 1) and give him your prayer request.

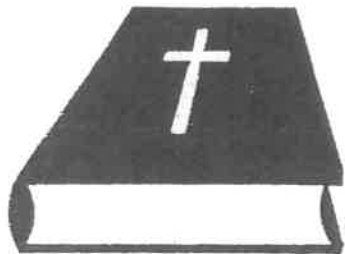
P.A.B. (Pay A Bill)

P.A.B. enables interested St. John Families to directly aid the ministries of their church by paying a current bill. This is designed as an opportunity for an **"Over-and-Above"** gift, beyond the Sunday offering envelope.

Pay-A-Bill for 7/31/2020: \$1,012.49

Please take note of the slips of paper posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Each slip contains the source of a bill and the amount. If you wish to pay that bill, please remove the slip of paper and a small envelope, enclose your check (**make checks payable to "St. John Lutheran Church"**), and place it in the wooden box. ***THANK YOU!***

You don't
become a
Best Seller



by being
boring.

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES FOR ALL AGES....

Begins again on:

Sunday, Oct. 11 at 9:15 AM

Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 10 AM

- + Every Class starts with an "Open Forum" for your questions to be answered
- + A large amount of study topics available
- + Frequent usage of media to watch on a 50" Plasma screen TV
- + We will practice all Covid 19 precautions for the safety of all

The Altar Guild is currently looking for additional volunteers who would enjoy preparing and maintaining the altar for worship at St. John. Volunteers are assigned to a rotating team committed to serve 2 months a year to set up for communion, change altar paraments, and to refill the altar candles as needed.



ALTAR FLOWERS . . .



If you would like to donate flowers for the altar, (or confirm your "standing order") please contact please call the **CHURCH OFFICE** at **(847) 593-7670** or email Pastor at jeffgavin@sbcglobal.net **NO LATER THAN NOON ON THE PRIOR TUESDAY!**

ALTAR FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS CAN COST AS LITTLE AS \$15! Please Note: When you donate flowers for our worship services, you are welcome to bring the flowers home after the 10:30 service.

ALTAR FLOWERS . . . To the honor and glory of God

It is always a privilege to remember a loved one or a special event in our life as a blessing from our Lord and give Him honor and glory.

Think about all the occasions YOU could place flowers on the altar of your Lord. We are always appreciative of your flower donation. Let's continue to have flowers on our altar every Sunday.

If you would like to donate flowers . . . please call the **CHURCH OFFICE** at **(847) 593-7670** or email Pastor at jeffgavin@sbcglobal.net.

THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

We read and hear much about how the Covid 19 pandemic has affected the operations of businesses, from major corporations to small stores and shops. What is little mentioned is how the pandemic is also affecting churches small and large, as well as the ministries of the church.

The primary ministry of the church is the preaching and teaching of God's Word within worship. And we know that the pandemic has closed churches. Though we are thankful that St John has been conducting worship services again since June 14, many churches remain closed. And those that are open must consider things that once seemed unimaginable for any church: We must limit the amount of worshippers present - People must RSVP to attend worship - Masks are required - There is no "passing of the offering plate" - Everyone must keep their distance and no greeting permitted - Congregational singing must be minimized and no choirs allowed - Stay home and watch the worship service online or on TV.

And other ministries of the church have also been altered and adversely affected. Bible classes and Sunday school classes have been suspended. Fellowship opportunities for all ages have been suspended. In person church meetings have been suspended. Visitation to the sick in hospitals or the aged in senior facilities has been suspended.

Those beloved ministries of the church: ladies societies, youth events, pot-lucks and dinners, church picnics, aiding the needy, outreach to the community, all of these and more have been suspended.

The ministries of the church which involve the members of the congregation have been suspended. Only the ministries of the church done by the pastor continue, yet they too have been altered. Pastoral visits are now pastor phone calls and e-mails. Counseling sessions have increased, but again by phone and or e-mail. The coordination of church ministries and operations are now confined to the pastor and performed by the pastor. This is why pastors are reporting they are busier than ever and more stressed too.

Consider our own congregation. We too were closed for worship for three months. When we opened the way we worshipped was altered for the protection of all. The array of different style worship services which we conduct has been altered. Still, though you might not have noticed, a different worship service has been provided to you each and every Sunday over the past sixteen weeks since we reopened.

Regular phone and e-mail contacts with our members have been conducted, and only recently has your pastor now been welcomed by some to visit their homes for Holy Communion. After a delay, and then a return under pandemic restrictions, a youth confirmation class was concluded with a confirmation on September 13. And after more than six months, Bible classes will resume in October.

Through our relationship with Lutheran Church Charities, in June, St John delivered 200 snack boxes to our first responders at the Mt Prospect Police Department and another 200 to the Mt Prospect Fire Department (see info on our webpage). And we have continued to help our own most needy families.

Perhaps you recall the full page, color announcement in our March 2020 newsletter about the introduction of our all congregation outreach ministry. - Well, like all such church outreach ministries which require us to engage in conversation and offer something to another person, it is suspended through the duration of the pandemic.

Church outreach ministries will be severely hampered for some time to come, just one of the adverse results of the pandemic. Numerous Christian sources are predicting a large number of churches permanently closing, due to financial hardship and the inability to adapt to the new realities of ministry. These same sources are predicting many pastors retiring or resigning from parish ministry as the new realities of ministry and the change from the old norms will present challenges for which they are not equipped nor trained to face, and have no desire or heart to try and lead a church into new times and new ways.

We read and hear much about how the Covid 19 pandemic has affected the operations of businesses, from major corporations to small stores and shops; and the challenges and consequences of failure to adapt to new times and new ways. The Christian Church is facing these same challenges and consequences to remain open and viable with ministries that must adapt to new times and new ways.

It is a time for all members of every congregation to unite in faith and action to support their church and their workers to keep their church open and to aid all possible ministries of the church as the Lord has called us to do. For the Church is His and the ministries of the Church are His, unto His greater glory.

St John has been blessed as we have continued to minister during the Pandemic. And we soon will be offered new opportunities for ministry. Early in 2021 a new ministry will open on our doorstep, with the opening of the Mount Prospect Senior Living Facility. For quite some time I have been speaking with some of our leaders and also with the owners and management of the facility about how we can minister to their residents.

I have for many years conducted chapel services and special presentations at other senior facilities. Once open, I will redirect those ministries to the facility "next door" and expand them as I am able...as soon as pandemic restrictions permit. I will also be inviting members of St John to join a group to also visit and minister to those residents. I'm sure that we can mobilize a number of us to show the care and love of Jesus to those in need. Watch for this invitation to join in the ministries of the church, at St John.

Pastor Jeff



FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020

<u>Month</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Receipts(over/under)Expenses</u>
January	\$ 9,038.86	\$ 12,075.17	(\$ 3,036.31)
February	8,350.00	20,571.42	(12,221.42)
March	12,566.00	19,884.82	(7,318.82)
April	19,959.78	14,852.51	5,107.39
May	7,557.00	16,776.42	(9,219.42)
June	22,836.54	11,033.43	11,803.11
July	<u>8,111.00</u>	<u>20,079.60</u>	<u>(11,968.60)</u>
August	<u>9,090.88</u>	<u>16,515.18</u>	<u>(7,424.30)</u>
	\$ 97,510.06	\$ 131,788.55	(34,278.37)

\$ 97,510.06	Receipts
18,400.00	From Savings Account
560.00	From Thrivent Choice
<u>15,000.00</u>	From Trust Fund Interest
\$ 131,470.06	Total Receipts
+ <u>6,448.60</u>	January 1, 2020 Starting Balance
\$ 137,918.66	Grand Total Receipts
- <u>131,788.55</u>	Total Expenses
\$ 6,130.11	August 31, 2020 Balance

Thank You for your continued faithful giving, because of your faithfulness we have been able to meet Our financial needs. Please do not stop now, as Summer will be ending soon and the heat and electric Bills will be increasing. As you can see, we are still in the negative zone. God bless each of you as you give what you can.

Ed Pfingsten, Financial Secretary

As other churches are experiencing, St John too is seeing fewer people in worship than before the Pandemic; and we understand why.

However your church is hurt when your absence from worship means your offerings to your church's ministries are also absent.

Please consider mailing your offerings to the church office if you have been absent from worship for awhile, so that we can pay our bills and do the work of our Lord. – Thank You.

September

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Leo Neggers	October 1	Junet Graves	October 17
Terilynn Adams	October 2	Jim Hammer	October 18
Larry Brockie Sr.	October 5	Anna Weissgerber	October 19
Jan Anderko	October 7	Celeste Graves	October 21
Eileen Christensen	October 9	Stephanie Hetrea	October 22
Kathy Fiorito	October 10	Audrey Gerlitz	October 29
Cathy Schubkegel	October 13	Julieth Nagunwa	October 29
Betty Kijak	October 16	William Vander Laan	October 31

If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the Church office for a correction...Thank You!-

May God Bless You on your Birthday

October 2020

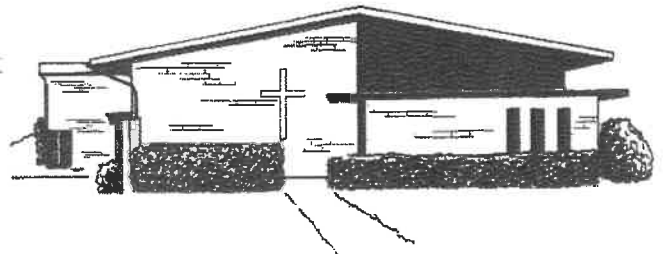
Saint John Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
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St. John Lutheran Church



"Christ's Family Reaching Out In Love"



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 South Linneman Road
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Sunday Services: 8 & 10:30 AM **Telephone:** (847) 593-7670
Sunday Bible Classes: 9:15 AM (10/11)
Mid-Week Bible Class: Wed. at 10 AM (10/7) www.stjohn-mpil.org

OCTOBER 2020

FIRST CLASS
MAIL

The Contact Newsletter

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 LINNEMAN ROAD
MOUNT PROSPECT IL 60056