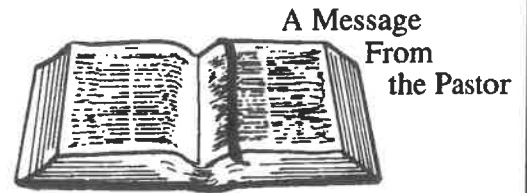




'Christ's Family Reaching Out In Love'



A DAY OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

For several years Lynn and I considered Abraham Lincoln our neighbor, as we lived just four blocks south of his home on 8th street in Springfield, Illinois. We considered him our "neighbor", because though he had been dead for some 110 years before we moved into his neighborhood, his presence was still very much alive.

As a student of history, it was a great thrill to frequently visit his home, walk about his neighborhood, and visit his nearby law office, the capitol building he knew and the train depot from which he departed the city to assume the presidency. My knowledge of and admiration for Mr. Lincoln increased greatly living in his shadow.

Many Americans are not aware that it was President Lincoln who by his 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation established our nation's first official Thanksgiving Day.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION OF 1863

It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.

We know that by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.

At the time of this proclamation the nation had been engaged in the horrific Civil War for two and a half years. A war that divided our nation, divided families, brought terrible destruction to many states and personal loss to countless people. It was a war of brutal battles on our American soil, which consumed the lives of an estimated 620,000 soldiers from both sides. Taken as a percentage of today's population, the toll would be the equivalent of a loss of over 6 million souls. (American Battlefield Trust)

It was for our nation a time of division, suffering, loss and death. Yet Lincoln called upon the people, in spite of the toll from the Civil War still raging, to remember the many blessings of a gracious God.

Today, the circumstances are different but the symptoms are the same. Our nation now is divided, people are suffering, experiencing loss, and Covid 19 has taken within nine months over 220,000 American lives.

Yet we too need to remember, in spite of the toll from the pandemic still raging, the many blessings of a gracious God. And later this month, may we offer our own: "thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens" and to the grace and mercy of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He who lived and died to make us His own and blesses us with life now and forever.

If the people of our nation were able to join together in a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise unto their Lord God even during the Civil War; so should we be able to join together in a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise unto our Lord God even during this pandemic.

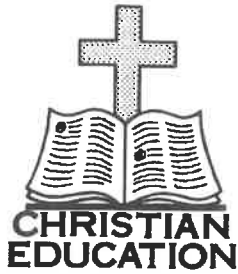
Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Together With You in Thanksgiving and Praise unto our Beneficent Father and His Son,
our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ,


Pastor Jeff G. Gavin



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.



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.***

Please join us for our **Mid-Week Bible Class** on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the lower level of the school building.

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"***:

James & Lynn Gajewski	November 5
Michael & Alyssa* Jensen	November 15
Daniel & Lindsey Schubkegel	November 25
Leo & Henny Neggers	November 26

PERSONAL PRAYER TIME

During our Sunday worship time of prayer, we offer a time for personal prayer. Each Sunday your Pastor leads you in prayer for various issues and people; but there are issues and people in your personal life which need prayer. So . . . we will include a time for silent prayer for any and all personal issues, concerns or burdens you may have; or your prayers for family, friends, home, church, nation or world, which may be on your heart and mind, so that you can bring these to your Lord in prayer.



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!**

 November BIRTHDAY
GREETINGS

Kassidy Anderko	November 2	James Roy	November 11
Jason Schimka	November 4	Donald Pyde	November 12
Megan Schoo	November 5	Craig Hammer	November 21
Timothy Koeppen	November 6	Dwayne Mueller	November 23
Patti Imburgia	November 7	Michael Jensen	November 25
Christian Kallio	November 8	Eliana Fiorito	November 27
John Dyslin	November 9	Lori Dewey-Soranno	November 28
Blake Ambrus	November 9	Ashley Lutsch	November 28
Douglas Hammer	November 10	Kara Bingham	November 30
Brittney Pass	November 10		

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

May God Bless You on your Birthday

FINANCIAL NEWS

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 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.

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 Fall is now here and the heat and electric bills will be increasing. God bless each of you as you give what you can.

POINSETTIAS

Busse Flowers informed us that due to Covid, they have problems with their supplier for poinsettia plants and cannot guarantee delivery of any order so we will not be ordering any poinsettias this year.



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.

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.**

COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

Perhaps we have not counted all our blessings one by one;
Perhaps we have not bothered to remember whence they come;
And maybe we have taken just for granted all the things
That the good Lord has created and the gifts that nature brings.

The autumn hills in glory robed, a golden field of grain,
Asunset's dazzling splendor or the Milky Way's great plain,
The starry sky's sublimity, the ocean's mighty power,
The wonder of creation in the petal of a flower.

And so if we have failed to show by word or act or deed
That we are thankful unto Him who fills our daily need,
May this day show we're grateful when we add up all the sum
Of the blessings we remember, as we count them one by one.

-Author Unknown



It's the Holiday Season again . . .
and time for Special Worship Services



**Thanksgiving Day Worship Service w/ Communion,
Choir and Handbells**

Thursday, November 26 - 9 AM