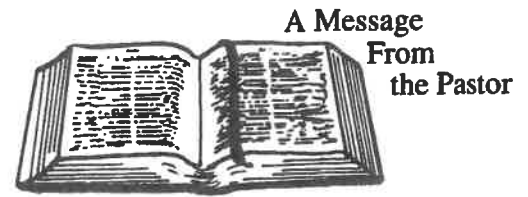




'Christ's Family Reaching Out In Love'



"PRECIOUS LORD"

Nearly ninety years ago a hymn was written that over the years has become a favorite in many Christian churches. It wasn't written by a German Lutheran and it is not in our Hymnal. But it is a hymn that many of you have heard, we have sung it here at St John, and it has some meaningful lyrics for us today. – Here is the story of the hymn: "Precious Lord", from the man who wrote it.

"Back in May 1932, I was a fairly new husband. My wife, Nettie and I were living in a little apartment on Chicago's south side. One hot August afternoon I had to go to St. Louis where I was to be the featured soloist at a large revival meeting. I didn't want to go; Nettie was in the last month of pregnancy with our first child, but a lot of people were expecting me in St. Louis. I kissed Nettie goodbye, clattered downstairs to our Model A and, in a fresh Lake Michigan breeze, chugged out of Chicago on Route 66.

However, outside the city, I discovered that in my anxiety at leaving, I had forgotten my music case. I wheeled around and headed back. I found Nettie sleeping peacefully. I hesitated by her bed; something was strongly telling me to stay. But eager to get on my way, and not wanting to disturb Nettie, I shrugged off the feeling and quietly slipped out of the room with my music.

The next night, in the steaming St. Louis heat, the crowd called on me to sing again and again. When I finally sat down, a messenger boy ran up with a Western Union telegram. I ripped open the envelope...pasted on the yellow sheet were the words: YOUR WIFE JUST DIED.

People were happily singing and clapping around me, but I could hardly keep from crying out. I rushed to a phone and called home. All I could hear on the other end was, "Nettie is dead. Nettie is dead."

When I got back, I learned that Nettie had given birth to a boy. I swung between grief and joy. Yet that same night...the baby died. I buried Nettie and our little boy together, in the same casket. Then I fell apart.

For days I closeted myself. I felt that God had done me an injustice. I didn't want to serve Him anymore or write gospel songs I just wanted to go back to that jazz music world I once knew so well.

But then, as I hunched alone in that dark apartment those first sad days, I thought back to the afternoon I went to St. Louis. Something had kept telling me to stay with Nettie. Was that something God? Oh, if I had paid more attention to Him that day, I would have stayed and been with Nettie when she died.

From that moment on I vowed to listen more closely to Him. But still I was lost in grief. Everyone was kind to me, especially one friend. The following Saturday evening he took me up to Maloney's College, a neighborhood music school. It was quiet; the late evening sun crept through the curtained windows.

I sat down at the piano, and my hands began to browse over the keys. Something happened to me then. I felt at peace. I felt as though I could reach out and touch God. I found myself playing a melody.

Once in my head the words just seemed to fall into place: "Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn, Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light, Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home."

The Lord gave me these words and melody, He also healed my spirit. I learned that when we are in our deepest grief, when we feel farthest from God, this is when He is closest, and when we are most open to His restoring power. And so I go on living for God willingly and joyfully, until that day comes when He will take me and gently lead me home."

The man who was inspired to write "Precious Lord" in his time of tragedy and trial was the Rev. Thomas Andrew Dorsey (Not "Tommy Dorsey", the well-know band leader of the 1930's and 1940's as many have mistakenly credited for this hymn). Singers from all musical directions have recorded this hymn, from the Gospel great Mahalia Jackson, to Country singer Tennessee Ernie Ford, to the King of Rock and Roll Elvis Presley.

For over a year the Covid 19 Pandemic has brought tragedy and trial to countless people world wide. Among those who have escaped the worst effects of the pandemic, many have still experienced personal fear; loneliness and isolation...even Christians. In such recent times when we have experienced so much, we may well need to turn to our Precious Lord, so that He can take our hand and lead us through the storm and the night of our troubles. For in faith we know the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus who seeks to embrace us in His care.

Our Lord says to us: *"Call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver you..." (Psalm 50:15)*
"Come unto me, all you who are weak and heavy burdened and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28)

Thomas Dorsey called upon the Lord in his day of trouble, he came unto his Precious Lord when he was weak and heavy burdened and the Lord delivered him and gave him rest. And he was inspired to write a hymn unto his Lord, which can be of help to us today.

"Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn, Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light, Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home."

I invite you to hear the music and listen to the lyrics for yourself, for those times when you need the Lord to take your hand. (Consider going to: 'You Tube' and type in: "Precious Lord".)

Together with you rejoicing in our "Precious Lord", Jesus Christ,



Pastor Jeff G. Gavin



TO ALL AT HOME, WHO WOULD LIKE HOLY COMMUNION

For many months, during this pandemic, as your Pastor, I have offered to visit you at home and bring to you Holy Communion. Over this time I have made such visits with a number of you and in your living room, your kitchen and even outside you have received your Lord's Body and Blood in Holy Communion. But for some, this has been an offer that has not yet been accepted.

The Pandemic has been a challenge, a true disruption to our lives and to what was once "normal". I can certainly understand the concern to have any person enter your home who might unknowingly, unintentionally bring to you the Covid 19 virus.

As of mid-April I am fully vaccinated. Perhaps many of you are now as well. So with this status, I am by way of this Newsletter, again extend my offer to any and all of our St John Families to visit you at home and bring to you Holy Communion. Be assured, I will still come wearing my mask for your even greater protection.

Please contact me if you would like me to visit you...and more importantly than my presence, to bring to you the Body and Blood of your Lord Jesus.

E-mail me at: jeffgavin@sbcglobal.net

Phone me at: 847-593-7670...leave a message if no one is in the office.

Blessings,
Pastor Jeff



A NEW MINISTRY FOR ST JOHN TO BEGIN IN MAY



Our neighbor the Mount Prospect Senior Living facility started on April 19 to receive residents. From the time of the purchase of our property I have been in discussion with the owners and more recently in meetings with the facilities' Executive Director and the Life Director to begin ministry to our neighbors.

Starting in May I will be conducting chapel services, devotions and presentations for the residents. Should there be Lutheran residents, Communion may be offered. I also hope that some of you may be interested to become "Friends of St John" to visit especially those residents who may lack family visitors. – Let me know if you are interested.

VOTERS MEETING – ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

On **Monday June 7, 2021 - 7:30 pm** at the church we will conduct our yearly: **June Voters Meeting**. Besides reports, it is at this meeting that we hold elections for Board members and Officers of our congregation.

Last year due to the pandemic, this meeting was not conducted and all terms of office were extended until 2021. This is an important meeting and we invite all voters to please be in attendance. We will social distance and wear face masks.

WE ARE ESPECIALLY IN NEED OF PEOPLE TO SERVE ON OUR BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTIES.

Joe Schubkegel with a great amount of help from George Schubkegel and other volunteers have been doing an outstanding job of maintaining the church and school properties and repairing things when needed. - BUT WE NEED MORE HELP.

Please prayerfully consider joining the Board of Church Properties so to lend a hand to keep our church properties in the best possible shape for our ministries and for the community around us.

If you have any questions or would be interested in joining this board... please speak with Joe or Pastor. – Thank You!

REMEMBER...GOD IS JUST AS INTERESTED IN YOUR "USABILITY" AS YOUR "ABILITY. Allow God to use YOU in service unto Him and His church.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PROPERTIES – SPRING WORK DAY

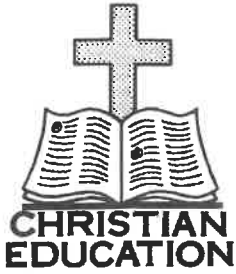
The month of May brings to St. John our annual SPRING WORK DAY.

"All hands on deck" are needed to attend to the cemetery and the property around the church and the school building after the long winter.

WATCH FOR THE DATE AND TIME

**EVEN A LITTLE OF YOU TIME...
WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED**





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"**:

Jukka & Jane Kallio	May 9
Joe & Cathy Schubkegel	May 10
Larry Sr. & Kristi Brockie	May 20
Dwayne & Alice Mueller	May 25
Joshua & Charissa Zeuli	May 25
Jonathan & Marsha Ruff	May 30

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) 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.

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!**

FOR OUR PROTECTION

In compliance with CDC guidelines and for the protection of you and your loved ones
... WE ASK THAT YOU WEAR A FACE MASK OVER YOUR NOSE AND MOUTH.

(If you don't have one, one will be given to you)
**MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING OF 6 FEET
BETWEEN YOU AND
THOSE WHO ARE NOT PART OF YOUR FAMILY**

We invite you to worship with us again soon!

WHEN YOU SHOP FOR ANY REASON ON AMAZON ... PLEASE CONSIDER THIS ...

amazonsmile

Org Central

Support: St. John Lutheran Church

When you shop at smile.amazon.com

Amazon donates a percentage of every purchase to St. John
Copy and paste the link below into your Browser to get started:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2387146>



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.

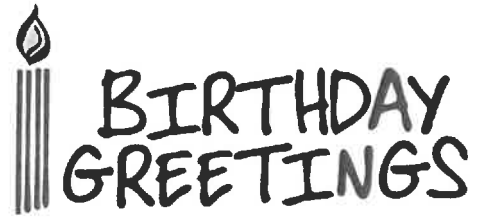
ALTAR FLOWERS ...

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.



MAY



Kenneth Schoo	May 3	Danny Schimka	May 13
John Limberger Jr.	May 6	Joe Clesi	May 15
Natalie Hammer	May 7	Stephanie Schellin	May 20
Marie Fisher	May 9	Lisa Shorb	May 24
Jukka Kallio	May 9	Aiden Lutsch	May 24
Amber Rainbolt	May 9	Karon Ordower	May 25
Andrew Tertel	May 11	Connie Ray	May 29
Art Schiemann	May 12	Cassie Tertel	May 30

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

May God Bless You on Your Birthday