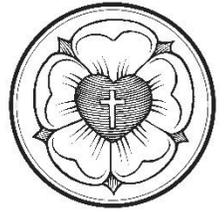


St. John's Newsletter

October 2019



The Lord's Mercy Endures Forever

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. (Psalm 118:1 EHV)

Last month Pastor Gartner talked about one of his favorite Psalms, Psalm 119. Taking a page from his playbook, and since this is for the October Newsletter (yes, I am aware that Reformation Sunday is November 3rd this year), I'm going to write about Martin Luther's favorite Psalm—Psalm 118. About this Psalm Luther wrote, *This is my psalm and it is dear to me. Although the whole Psalter and indeed the Holy Bible is very dear to me, yet this psalm in particular I call my own for it has been of great service to me and often delivered me from great distress, when neither the Emperor, kings, wise men, counselors, or saints were of any help. Therefore it is more precious to me than the honor, wealth, and power of the pope, Turk, Emperor, or the whole world, and I wouldn't be willing to exchange it for them all.*

What exactly about this psalm made it Martin Luther's favorite? Probably a lot of different passages! Sadly, we only have room to look at a few highlights—I encourage you to read the entire Psalm on your own. We recognize the verse above as one of the common table prayers. This verse is repeated at the end of the Psalm, serving as a bookend and a theme. The other verses of this Psalm explain in detail what makes the Lord good and his mercy endure forever. When I think of this Psalm and Martin Luther, Verses 6-7 stand out, **The Lord is with me. I will not be afraid. What can people do to me? The Lord, who is with me, is my helper, so I will look in triumph on my enemies.** Luther's life was threatened because he dared to teach the truth of salvation by grace through faith alone. When push came to shove at the Diet of Worms, Luther refused to recant (take back) his teachings and stood firm on the truth of Scripture. Based on this Psalm (as well as Psalm 46, among others) he knew that God would protect him from his enemies.

Verses 16-17 also stand out, **The right hand of the Lord is lifted high! The right hand of the Lord has done a mighty deed!" I will not die. No, I will live, and I will proclaim the works of the Lord.** What is the great deed of the Lord that causes us to proclaim his name? Christ's victory over death! His resurrection doesn't just mean that we are forgiven but that we will live even though we die! This is the pinnacle of our faith. Heaven is ours only because of Jesus, who makes us righteous (pure and holy) in the eyes of the Lord through the sacrifice of himself on the cross. As verses 19-20 say, **Open for me the gates of righteousness. I will enter them. I will give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate to the Lord. The righteous enter it.** The most well-known verse of this Psalm is verse 22 because it is quoted on multiple occasions in the New Testament in reference to Christ, **The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.** Jesus was rejected by the Jews and so many others, whom he came to save. He was put to death; but he was raised to life and now he sits on the throne of God and rules over his Church, the body of believers. Christ is the cornerstone, the very important foundation of this Church, for on him and through him this Church is built. And this Church will not crumble or fall because the cornerstone is eternal—he is good and his love endures forever! You can certainly see why this was Martin Luther's favorite Psalm; I pray that it may be one of your favorites as well!

Pastor Frey

October 2019

ALTAR GUILD

Kathy Bluma	381-9456
Judith Doersch	450-8372
Elaine Springstroh	739-0807
Wendy & Natalie Raschka	560-2193

GREETERS

8:00	Bill & Katie Rickert	10/6
10:30	Phyllis Gresens & Sheryll Techlin	
8:00	Gary & Kathy Schabo	10/13
10:30	Charlie & Rose Miller	
8:00	Gordon & Jean Schroeder	10/20
10:30	Betty Randall & Diane Schabo	
8:00	Marilyn Wilson & Cathy Puls	10/27
10:30	Janice Bates & Sheryl Hill	

WITH THE LORD Our brother in Christ, Norman Schabo entered eternal life with his Savior on Saturday, August 31, 2019. A Christian funeral service was held at St. John on Saturday, September 7, 2019. ***"I am the resurrection and the life." John 11:25.***

QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 pm we will have our next Quarterly Voter's Meeting. Since we revised our Constitution, this meeting is now our "Elections and Finances" Voter's meeting, which means that we will be having elections for Vice President, Head Trustee and Evangelism Chairman. We will also be making decisions about other financial matters for this coming year such as salaries and amounts sent to FVL and the Synod. All Voters: please make plans to attend this important meeting.

WELS APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY The pantry collection will be Sunday, October 6. Items needed include pancake mix and syrup, canned fruit, jam, cookies, crackers, canned pumpkin and evaporated milk, cranberries and stuffing, rice and noodle side dishes, hamburger/chicken/tuna helpers, facial tissues and laundry and dish soap. We also need paper grocery bags **with** handles. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

MONDAY/TUESDAY BIBLE CLASS Just a reminder that this Class will not meet on October 21 and 22.

ADOPT A HIGHWAY/WORK DAY We will be cleaning our section of Highway 47 on Saturday, October 12 at 8:00 a.m. We will also be working on the Church property to get it cleaned up and ready for Winter. Please sign the sheet in the entryway if you can help.

LWMS FALL RALLY The LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) Wolf River fall rally will be held Saturday, October 12 from 8:15 am to 12:00 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1120 Evans St., Waupaca. Child care is available—all events are on ground level. All ladies of the congregation are members of the LWMS. Pastor Paul Prange, the guest speaker, will be sharing information about the Hmong Outreach in Vietnam.

Please sign the sheet in the entryway if you plan on going and indicate if you would like to car pool. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Schabo at 920-427-2990.

WOMEN OF FAITH All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us Tuesday, October 8 at 1:00 pm for Bible study and LWMS updates. Moms, bring your little ones.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY All men of the congregation are invited to join us on Tuesday, October 15 at 9:00 am for Bible study.

FELLOWSHIP SHEETS Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a fellowship sheet. This is a way for all members to be involved in some activity and get to know fellow members. There are many ways you can serve, just check the area you would be able to help. Even if you signed up last year, please sign up again. Place completed fellowship sheets in the letter file tray labeled **FELLOWSHIP SHEETS** on the counter in the entry way by October 21.

There is always a need for help with cleaning and altar guild. Each cleaning team cleans once every six weeks with each person on the team cleaning a designated area in the church. For altar guild, you along with three other members serve for one month every seven months. Other areas of need are bringing meals to a family of a new born, mentoring new members and helping with Brewster Village worship.