



VOL. XXX No. 11  
NOVEMBER 2017

## HE WILL BE HERE

Not long ago, when I was driving to the Twin Cities on Highway 10 south of Elk River, I noticed the sign for a car dealership. On the sign, under the name of the car dealership, were these words: “We’ll be here.” The only thing was: the car dealership was closed. On the showroom window were painted these words: “For Sale.” I’m sure it was the intention of the owner of the car dealership to be there in the future for the customers, but something must have happened so that the promise “We’ll be here” was broken.

Isn’t that the way it is with some of our promises? We have every intention of keeping them, but for some reason we don’t. It can happen that things beyond our control get in the way of our keeping a promise. It also happens that we don’t keep a promise because we have changed our mind, for whatever reason, some of which may be selfish reasons.

Some of us made promises on our confirmation day. We promised to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord’s Supper faithfully. We promised to live according to the Word of God and in faith, word, and deed remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We promised to continue steadfast in the confession that we made on our confirmation day and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from the faith. We could summarize all those promises with the words, “We’ll be here.” “We’ll be here” at worship where we hear God’s Word and receive the Lord’s Supper. “We’ll be here,” believing that the Triune God is the only true God. “We’ll be here” and continue in the faith. So why is it, there are times when we don’t keep those promises? Why is it that we are less than faithful in our worship attendance? Why is it that we are guilty of worshipping the same false gods others are chasing after? Why is it that there are times when we are in danger of falling from the faith?

We can be thankful that God keeps His promises. He promised to be here and He has been since the beginning of time. He was even here in the flesh following the conception of His own Son. He came into the world to keep God’s promise of a Savior. Jesus went to the cross for all of our broken promises. He died and He rose again and just prior to His ascension, He promised that even though He was no longer going to be visible to His disciple, He would still be there, **“to the end of the age”** (Matthew 28:20). He’ll be here and He wants to use His Word to keep us in the faith. He’ll be here and He wants to help us keep our promises.

## **COME AND EXPERIENCE REFORMATION WALK ON OCTOBER 29**

On Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, members of St. John's will be dressing up as people associated with the Reformation and following the 9 am service will be in various locations around the church building, talking about various aspects of the Reformation. You may not live in sixteenth-century Germany, but on October 29th you will have an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Martin Luther. Your whole family will enjoy the sights, sounds, and tastes of the Reformation and learn how the world changed forever.

### **FOOD SHELF COLLECTION**



St. John's will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Aitkin Food Shelf again this November and using it as our Thanksgiving display. If you wish to donate towards this cause, please bring your items to church and place them in front of the cornucopia, or if you'd rather, an usher will do it for you.

### **ANNUAL LISTS TO BE UPDATED**

Once again, new lists for ushers, communion cleaners, communion fillers, altar care, and service groups will be put together for the coming year. If you have not been on one of these list in the past and would like to be in the future or if you have been on one of these list and would like to be removed for next year, please contact the church office. Also, if you are willing to remain on the list but would prefer a different assignment, please let the church office know about that also.

### **THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE**

This year Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, November 23. On that day we will gather together in church to remember what the day really means. We give thanks to God for all of His good gifts. Our Thanksgiving Day Worship Service will begin at 9:00 a.m.



### **ADVENT SERVICES BEGIN DECEMBER 6**

This year at our Midweek Advent Services we will begin on Wednesday, December 5. There will be three services on December 6, 13, & 20. Each service will begin at 7 pm.

**THE DEACONS WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE ALL THE  
MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN'S TO INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH  
IF YOU ARE NERVOUS ABOUT INVITING SOMEONE ...  
Here are 8 tips to reduce the sweaty palm syndrome . . .**

- 1. INVITE SOMEONE YOU KNOW** – Surveys show that a majority of people first come to church because a friend invited them;
- 2. PRAY ABOUT YOUR INVITING** – The Holy Spirit wants to work through you to help others hear the Good News;
- 3. INVITE IN THE TIME OF NEED** – There are times in most people's lives when the message of Christ and the fellowship of worship are especially needed ... in those times people may be more open to an invitation to worship;
- 4. INVITE THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE A CHURCH HOME** – St. John's treasures opportunities to serve people who do not have a church home;
- 5. INVITE PEOPLE BECAUSE YOU ARE PROUD OF YOUR CHURCH HOME** – As we gather for worship with our church family we experience the "joy of salvation;" it is a joy we want to share with others;
- 6. INVITE IN YOUR OWN WAY** – Don't worry about how you are going to invite; just remember the Holy Spirit wants to bless your invitation;
- 7. DON'T GIVE UP;**
- 8. INVITE PEOPLE TO WORSHIP WITH YOU** – Arrange to meet them and sit with them.

## HAVE YOU CHANGED OVER TO ONLY HAVING A CELL PHONE?

Many in the congregation are giving up their landline phones and only having a cell phone. If you are one of those or if you prefer that people would use your cell phone number to get a hold of you, please let the church office know what your cell number is. If you would prefer that we not publish the number, let us know that and it will not appear in the Annual Report.

## THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE BAZAAR

THANK YOU to ALL who made our Bazaar & Bake Sale a HUGE success! We really appreciate all who brought crafts, baked goods, garden produce or items for Grandma's Attic and all who helped on any of the work days or on Saturday! Thank you to all who were customers on Saturday! With all of your support we were able to raise about \$5,400 for the General Fund.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

|                  |             |                      |             |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Larry Denny      | November 01 | Jeff Peysar          | November 15 |
| Kylan Hill       | November 01 | Becky Zenke          | November 16 |
| David Paulson    | November 01 | Al Schlinger         | November 17 |
| Lois Paulson     | November 02 | Cody Fossum          | November 19 |
| Trevor Radke     | November 02 | Judy Fossum          | November 19 |
| Paige Beaufeaux  | November 03 | Greta Rose           | November 19 |
| Hanna Devries    | November 03 | Siarra Espethseth    | November 20 |
| Richard Futhey   | November 03 | Braden Bartel-Wagner | November 21 |
| Brian Ruschmeier | November 03 | George Bender        | November 22 |
| Gerald Borgman   | November 05 | Conner Quigley       | November 22 |
| Brenda Larson    | November 05 | Linda Hejny          | November 23 |
| Lynn Wikelius    | November 05 | Troy Dox             | November 24 |
| Ronald Weimer    | November 06 | Chris Schultz        | November 25 |
| Paul Zenke       | November 06 | Randy Greenbush      | November 27 |
| Matthew Borgman  | November 07 | Ruth Bender          | November 28 |
| Evan Redepenning | November 07 | Amber Peet           | November 28 |
| Owen Redepenning | November 07 | Robert Nixon         | November 29 |
| Jonah Perrine    | November 07 | Julie Solien         | November 29 |
| Alan K. Cooper   | November 09 | Shanna Christian     | November 30 |
| Deanna Bauer     | November 11 | Rebecca Harrison     | November 30 |
| Carla Gamman     | November 11 | Mike Johnson         | November 30 |
| Dixie Hunt       | November 11 | Wendy Wegner         | November 30 |
| Johnathon Arness | November 12 |                      |             |
| Catherine Cox    | November 12 |                      |             |
| Greg Kuehn       | November 13 |                      |             |
| Christine Marsh  | November 14 |                      |             |
| Hunter Weinhold  | November 14 |                      |             |

\*The birthdays listed are from our church records. Any mistakes are unintentional. Please notify the office of any mistakes, deletions, or if you do not want your birthday listed.

## NEWS FROM THE RUESCHES OUR TOGETHER IN MISSION MISSIONARIES

As Hurricane Maria was landfall on the island of Puerto Rico, Pastor Ruesch and his family were being evacuated by The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). They were in St. Louis for a while and then went to stay with family in Wisconsin. When it was safe to return, Pastor Ruesch accompanied a Disaster Response team from the LCMS to assess ways that they might use Pastor Ruesch's congregation, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Mayaguez, to help those suffering effects of the storm. Please pray for Pastor Ruesch and his family and his church family, the members of Prince of Peace as they seek to recover themselves and as they reach out to help others.

If you would like to give toward the support of the Ruesches by placing your offering in an envelope marked "Together in Mission."

If you would like to give something to help with relief efforts in Puerto Rico, there are:



**4 WAYS  
TO GIVE**

**TO PUERTO RICO RECOVERY:**

**TEXT**  
LCMSPUERTORICO to 41444.

**ONLINE**  
[LCMS.ORG/DISASTER](http://LCMS.ORG/DISASTER).

**CALL**  
888-930-4438  
during business hours.

**MAIL** A CHECK TO LCMS,  
P.O. BOX 66861,  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63166-6861  
Make it payable to "LCMS" and  
write "Puerto Rico Recovery"  
in the memo line.

GIFTS ARE TAX-DEDUCIBLE AS ALLOWED BY LAW. OUR TAX ID NUMBER IS: 43-0558188

**LCMS World Relief  
and Human Care**

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
324 3<sup>RD</sup> Street NW, Aitkin, MN 56431  
218-927-3170

**November Ushers**

\*Marvin Borgman  
Richard Buhlmann  
Marv Baty  
Fred Kiphuth  
Christian Rom  
Nathan Rom

**Deacon:** Gene Pagels

**Communion Fillers**

11/5: Diana Backstrom  
11/19: Faye Torgerson

**Communion Cleaners**

11/5: Erin Rom  
11/19: Judy Isaak

**Altar Care:**

Debbie Schultz

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**324 3<sup>rd</sup> St NW, Aitkin, MN 56431**  
**Church Phone: 218-927-3170**  
**Parsonage Phone: 218-927-3922**  
**Email: stjohndaitkin@gmail.com**  
**Online version of newsletter available at:**  
**<http://www.stjohndaitkin.org>**