

The Richland Word

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER

2020

Holy Communion Begins in September

Beginning in September St. John will resume offering the Sacrament of the Altar at least 2 times a month to those who would like it.

Using individual, sealed cups containing both grape juice and a small wafer, the administration of Holy Communion will be fairly similar to as it was before the pandemic.

The service of Holy Communion will come later in the service, beginning with a brief order for confession and absolution preceding the consecration and distribution of the elements.

The elements will be brought to those in the pews to those who want it, *but the tray itself will not be passed. Only the Communion Ushers will handle the trays.*

After those that received the elements “eat and drink,” again a Communion Usher will come by to collect the cups and any other left-over waste. Individual antiseptic wipes will also be available in the pews on September 6th, and thereafter available for individuals to take when they enter the sanctuary for worship on Sundays when Holy Communion is celebrated, if they would like one.

“Come to the table of the Lord!”

Children’s Ministry this Fall at St. John

We are very happy to be able to announce that in-person Sunday School will be available for parents with children beginning the Sunday after Labor Day weekend, as is St. John’s tradition. Much more space, however, will be utilized to help provide all children a safe and worry-free (for the parents!) learning environment, with social distancing and face covering being utilized throughout.

To accommodate safe social distancing, the stage and main area in the parish hall will be used for K - 1st graders and 2nd - 6th graders. 7th - 12th graders will meet in the Youth Building, and the Adult Sunday School class will meet in the sanctuary. An online “virtual” Sunday School resource will be available for children who are unable to experience in-person learning at this time.

For the children during the worship service, a separate Children’s Worship Folder will again be available to all children (by asking one of the ushers), and a weekly “Children’s Lesson,” taught by one of St. John’s adult volunteers, will again be a part of the worship service each Sunday beginning September 13th.

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“Mere Christianity” Comes to St. John

Arguably the 20th century’s most influential Christian writer, C.S. Lewis sought to explain and defend the beliefs that nearly all Christians at all times hold in common. His simple yet deeply profound classic, originally delivered as a series of radio broadcasts, is a book to be thoroughly digested by believers and also ideal to share with skeptics.

Copies of “Mere Christianity” will be available for any donation in the sanctuary beginning August 30th. A group study of this classic will begin on Thursday evening, September 17th, at 6:00 p.m., in the parish hall.

* * * * *

Friday Morning Bible Study

After several lengthy delays, St. John's next session of the Friday Morning Bible Study will begin on September 4, 2020 at 10 am in the Parish Hall.

The study chosen (months ago) for this series of discussions is Jesus: The One and Only, from the author Beth Moore. Lois has already ordered books for everyone and some have been picked up by eager students. Please give Lois a call (512 278 0990) or send her an email at loishrout@gmail.com if you want her to leave a book for you in the church office on Thursday or Friday morning or if you want it delivered to your home.

Nominating Committee Formed

At the August Council meeting it was unanimously approved to appoint a nominating committee to assist St. John's annual election process at its annual meeting this coming October.

The nomination of individuals by members using secret ballot will still be a part of the election process, but the Nominating Committee will assure that at least one candidate per vacancy has had the opportunity to think about, pray about, and reflect on serving in a specific position, *before* actually being elected. Members of the Nominating Committee for the upcoming October annual

We will be trying a new combination for the sessions: I ordered audio introductions for each chapter of the study, and we will be listening to them first and then discussing the sections just as we have done in the past. Joining us for our sessions is Jena Cazolla, a longtime friend who lost her husband on August 1, 2020. She has attended St. John adult Sunday school and services twice now and really wants to do Bible study, but she is unable to read because she has severe macular degeneration and can't see book text. But I am sure that after hearing the audio portions, she will join in the discussions; finding new friends through this Bible

study will ease her transition into a new life.

-- Lois Shrout

Children's Ministry this Fall at St. John

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The Christian Education Committee wants to do some cleaning and add some new paint and color to our children's learning spaces.

If you'd like to help in cleaning, painting, and otherwise prepping the parish hall and Youth Building for the beginning of Sunday School on September 13th, contact Shannon or John Patrone at "sjpatrone@gmail.com".

ers Meeting include Gary Pemberton, Lois Shrout, Janet Hees, and Pastor Todd.

Elections for leadership positions required at the upcoming October Annual Members Meeting include the following:

Council seat 5 - Bryan Rust has agreed to seek re-election.

Council seat 6 - Gary Pemberton is not eligible for re-election.

Council seat 7 - Jeff Haller has declined to seek re-election.

Council seat 8 - Vicki Merideth has agreed to seek re-election.

Sunday School Superintendents - Shannon & John Patrone have both agreed to seek re-election.

President - Mark Muehlbrad has declined to seek re-election.

As a result, the Nominating Committee will seek candidates for Council seats 6 and 7, and for President.

Please pray for the Nominating Committee, and the upcoming Annual Meeting.

If you are a member of St. John and would like to serve in a place of leadership at your church, or you know of a member that would, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee before Saturday, September 12th.



Women's Guild News

Dear Women of St. John,

As we continue our journey through the COVID19 pandemic, please take some time to contemplate your part in the future of our Women's Guild organization. The constitution was updated in 2011 and is broad enough to allow for any changes we might need through amendments. Read through your copy and let the officers know if there are items that are no longer relevant or new items we might consider adding. If you need a copy of the Guild's Constitution, contact Sandy Brunton, in the church office, and she will set one out for you or mail it to you.

Regarding the immediate future, we are currently at a standstill as far as gathering for meetings, so we have not formed a nominating committee. There will be no election of officers in September, and no Pfolk Pfest in October.

We will look forward to better days ahead when the threat of the coronavirus is behind us.

Stay safe and well and reach out to your Sisters in Christ to share your faith and hope.

Blessings,

St. John Women's Guild Officers:

Brenda Kirchner, president
Sandy Brunton, vice-president
Janet Hees, secretary
Kathy Pemberton, treasurer

Crafting w/ Friends

This fun group will be gathering on Saturday, Sept. 5th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. We will continue to adhere to all the safety precautions to which our leaders are asking us, to make our time together as safe and worry-free as possible for all.

At our last meeting, we did plan some projects for part of the year. Hearing your ideas would be enjoyable.

On the 5th, we will continue working on hospital blankets for hospice patients.

Come and bring your projects with you and show them to us! We have a finished quilt to show you. Some of you may have some wonderful ideas to share.

Hope to see you there!

Sandy Brunton,
Chair



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Trevor Ethun who graduated from Bedford High School in Michigan earlier this year. Trevor was confirmed here at St. John. His grandparents are Michael and Liz Gebert.

Trevor will be attending the University of Toledo in Ohio this fall. His major will be Criminal Law.

Prayer Chain

Did you know St. John has a prayer chain? About a dozen members have covenanted together as a team to confidentially pray for needs in the congregation, including sickness, surgery, loss, and other challenges facing individuals.

Contact Sandy Brunton or the church office if you have a prayer request, or would like to be a part of this team.



Contact Andrew Hamann if you'd like to play this year!

During This Pandemic...

For emergencies, or for anything urgent or time-sensitive, call Pastor Todd on his cell phone: 512-745-1057. (Please do not text if you need to contact him right away.)

Otherwise, you can email Pastor Todd at:

pastortoddpeterson@gmail.com,

and he will respond to your email usually in 2-4 days.



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LCMC

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church is associated with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). For more information about LCMC, visit their website at www.lcmc.net

From Our Music Director

St. John's hand bell and vocal choirs will have their first rehearsal for the fall on **Wednesday evening, September 30th**; vocal choir members will meet at 6:30pm and hand bell choir members at 7:30pm.

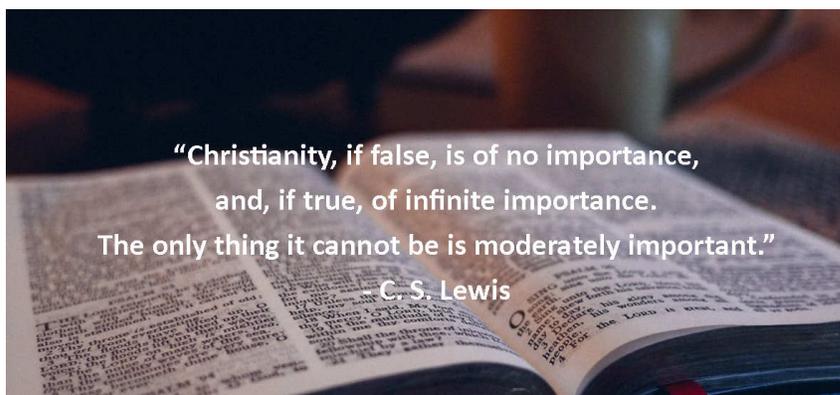
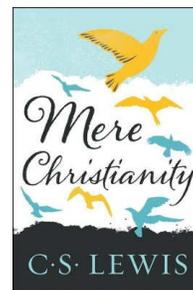
Current and prospective "singers and ringers" are asked to come to the parish hall for rehearsal. Increased distancing will be followed, as well as other safety protocols, to insure that our rehearsals are both fun AND safe...for all!

“ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Psalm 100:1



LCMC 20th Annual Gathering and Convention

LCMC's traditional 3-day "Annual Gathering" of LCMC congregations throughout the world will be reduced to a 1-day event this year: at North Heights Lutheran Church in Arden Hills, Minnesota, on Monday, October 5th. Talk to Pastor Todd ASAP if you would like to attend!



"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance.

The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."

- C. S. Lewis