

# The Richland Word

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER  
2020

## St. John's Sunday School is Back

They're back and we cannot be more excited! We had 10 of our children and youth attend Sunday School for the first time in person on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. It was so wonderful to be able to teach God's word to all of them. For the children and youth that we are still missing, we are still sending out our virtual lessons, so they can still be part of our weekly Sunday School time. If you are not receiving our virtual lessons and would like to receive them, please email Shannon Patrone at [sjpatrone@gmail.com](mailto:sjpatrone@gmail.com).

We are still needing a classroom teacher either part-time or full-time. Please consider helping to put God's word into the hands and hearts of our children.

With our first step of meeting in-person for Sunday School completed, I am looking forward now toward our Mission and Games on Wednesday nights. (We do not have a scheduled start date yet.) I am wanting to try something new this year and am looking for a couple of volunteers. I would like to start serving a lite meal for the children attending this Wednesday night function. If you would be interested in helping to cook on one or two Wednesday nights per

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## Annual October Fall Congregational Mtg.

October 18th is the date for St. John's Fall Annual Congregation Meeting following the worship service. Members will meet in the Parish Hall, social distancing as much as possible. The agenda for this meeting will include the usual items: approval of previous meetings' minutes, approval of the proposed 2021 budget, elections to fill leadership vacancies, and the designation of benevolence gifts.

An addition to the agenda this year will be a recommendation from the Church Council to upgrade the sanctuary's sound system, as proposed by a bid submitted by AV Connect out of Round Rock. (This bid by AV Connect is at least the third bid St. John has obtained for improvements in the sanctuary sound system, since Bond's Television and Electronics submitted a bid for AV improvements in the sanctuary over 5 years ago.)

The election process of a new president and 2 or 3 Council members (depending upon whether or not the new president is currently a member of the Church Council) will be assisted this year for the first time by a report from a candidate selection team, appointed annually

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## "Mere Christianity" Discussion Group

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 being discussed by enthusiastic readers on Thursday evenings, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Contact Pastor Todd for more information. New Christians, "veteran believers", and "seekers"...will all find encouragement in this book.

Copies of "Mere Christianity" are available in the sanctuary for any donation.

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## Baptism, Confirmation, and Walking with Jesus during a Pandemic

Despite the presence of the ongoing pandemic, October will be a special and important month for followers of Christ at St. John.

On Sunday, October 11th, Andrew Schuchmann will be baptized with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

Last year Andrew learned a lot about the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, as he and McKenzie studied Luther's Small Catechism, and the Bible's and the Church's historical teaching on this sacrament of initiation and beginnings.

Holy Baptism marks not only Andrew's formal entrance into God's covenant community, the body of Christ on earth (much like circumcision in the

Old Testament was an external sign of being a part of God's covenant community), it also represents for Andrew personally owning the faith he has learned and been taught about his Savior, Jesus Christ!

On the following Sunday, October 18th, the congregation of St. John will host its annual fall congregational meeting, including the election of new leaders for 2021. (See separate article detailing this meeting beginning on page 1.)

Then on Sunday, October 25th, McKenzie Patrone and Andrew Schuchmann will be confirmed, marking the completion of 2 plus years of instruction with Pastor Todd, which included a cursory survey of the message of the entire Bible,

followed by an overview of Luther's Small Catechism. On the 25th McKenzie and Andrew will also have opportunity to tell those present at worship a little bit about their faith, and why they see or understand or value it...as they do.

Please be in prayer for Andrew and McKenzie, that this month make not only a deep and memorable impression on them,...but also that the reality of Christ, His love for them, and the teachings of Holy Scripture and Christ's Church ...would take ever deeper rooting in their minds, hearts, and souls.



### St. John's Sunday School

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month, please contact me at [sjpatrone@gmail.com](mailto:sjpatrone@gmail.com) or 505-328-6224.

We will be scheduling things for the kids to do together as soon as more things start opening up! Parents, please be on the lookout for a night of Family Advent Wreath Making. We are looking at the beginning of November, so you can have your wreath ready for the First Day of Advent on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to give a big shout out of "Thank You" to

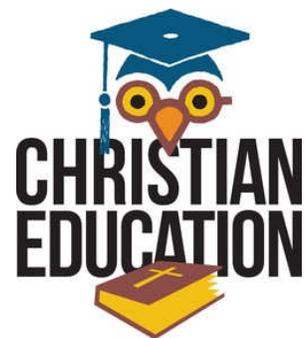
Bryan Rust, and John and Cameron Patrone, for their help cleaning, power washing, and chalking all the base boards and windows, plus painting the floor, in the Youth Center. Thank you also to Al Wendland for letting us use his power washer. We were able to have our Confirmation kids and high schoolers have their first Sunday School gathering on the 13th in a clean building. (For pictures of work being done on the Youth Center, see the back of the October calendar.)

There will be more opportunities for people to volunteer if

you would like. We will be finishing up our Youth Center and then moving into painting and updating the children's Sunday School classrooms. We would appreciate any help offered.

God's blessings to all!

- Shannon Patrone



## Daylight Savings Time Adult Bible Study

### Ends November 1st

Remember to adjust your clocks Saturday night, October 31st, before you go to bed, as Daylight Savings Time officially ends 2:00 a.m. November 1st.

### *Annual October Fall Congregational Mtg.*

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by the Church Council, to seek out qualified candidates for anticipated leadership needs from the membership prior to the upcoming annual meeting. Members of the candidate selection team this year included Gary Pemberton, Janet Hees, Lois Shrou, and Pastor Todd.

During the election process on October 18th, the name of each person contacted and confirmed as being able and willing to serve in a specific position will first be provided to the membership, and then, as the Constitution stipulates, the congregation will nominate individual members for each leadership position vacancy by using secret ballots. The two persons receiving the highest number of votes in the first ballot shall be in a run-off on a second ballot unless one receives a majority of the votes cast. If a person receives a majority of the votes cast for a position, even if on the first ballot, then that person is elected to fill the position.

Elections for leadership positions required at the upcoming

For the fall quarter of 2020, Biblical lessons treat love as it reveals itself within families; as it appears in the teachings of Jesus (love in the community); and as it is shaped by believers who abide in Christ. Readings begin in Genesis with the story of Joseph, move to 1st Samuel to reveal God's laws requiring love for others, and finally highlight New Testament passages to treat love among believers.

The adult sessions, which begin at 9 a.m., are now held in the Sanctuary so that Sunday school classes for the children can use the open area of the Parish Hall to achieve the necessary social distancing.

For a free booklet, see Loyd Shrou before class or after church services.

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### **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](mailto:pastortoddpeterson@gmail.com),

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

October 18th 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.

## Crafting w/ Friends

Our next gathering will be October 10th in the parish hall at 10am. We welcome anyone interested in sharing and creating ideas.

We are presently making blankets for hospice patients at Seton Hospital. This is a rewarding experience.

We are also making Christmas stockings for our community food pantry. If you wish to make some stockings, call Sandy Brunton. They can be made out of any fabric, make any size and color. Make them unique and different!

We have some other projects in the works, come see what they are!

Sandy Brunton



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.



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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](http://www.lcmc.net)

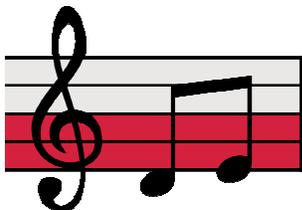


## St. John's Choirs Begin Practice September 30

Join St. John's vocal choir at 6:30 p.m., or the hand bell choir starting at 7:30 p.m.,...or both,...on Wednesday evening, September 30th. Meeting in the sanctuary.

Participants will be taking prudent precautions in both choirs by wearing a mask and social-distancing. Anyone who enjoys praising God is welcome.

Hope to see you September 30th!



## Holy Communion Available Every 1st and 3rd Sunday

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month, the Sacrament of the Altar, the Eucharist, Holy Communion, is served.

The elements are received in the pews using a prepackaged cup of grape juice with a wafer attached. (Optional disinfectant wipes are also available for individuals to use just prior to taking the sacrament.) Gluten-free is also available for those that are gluten-intolerant.

Come to the table of the Lord!



## Reformation Sunday

**October 25, 2020**

