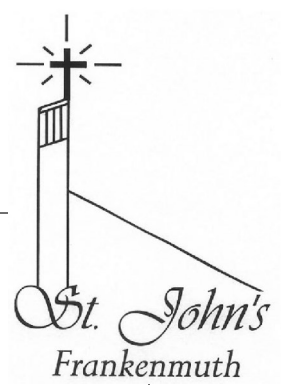


THE VICTORY



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

August 2021

ISRAEL

The first summer midweek Bible Study covered the topic of Israel, the land and people in ancient and modern times. I'd like to give a recap of that study here, help you who couldn't attend appreciate some of the gospel gems we discovered, and point ahead to the upcoming study.

For especially the last seventy years, Israel as a modern state has been a hotbed of international debate and conflict. Israelis claim that God gave them the land, and some Christians in America agree with them.

However, when we hear God promising a land to the people of Israel (descendants of Jacob and his twelve sons), it's a promise fulfilled already in

the Old Testament. God repeats the promises to Jacob that he gave to Isaac and Abraham, Jacob's father and grandfather, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 28:13, 14). The promise of the land came true when Jacob's descendants came back to Canaan (modern-day Israel) around 1400 BC and took possession of it. Jacob's offspring became "like the dust of the earth" and filled the land starting when they entered it and continuing through the reigns of King David and King Solomon. Later Old Testament figures speak as if this promise was already fulfilled. Most importantly, the promise of offspring and a land were tied to the promise that "in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 28:14).

How would the whole earth be blessed through the Old Testament peoples? The answer is through Christ! Jesus is the blessing to the world through the Old Testament people of Israel. The Old Testament Scriptures were all pointing ahead to him. Jesus' Jewish flesh was the flesh that lived obediently for us, the flesh that bore our sins, was nailed to the cross, died, and entered the tomb. However, it was Jesus' Israelite flesh that rose from the dead, too, proclaiming that our sins had been paid for and heaven was now open to all the families of the earth! It is Jesus' Jewish



Worship Service

Sunday at 10 a.m.

Service Broadcast

- ♦ Sunday 8 a.m.
Radio WKCQ 98.1
FM
- ♦ Monday 7 p.m.
Charter Cable TV
channel 191

Church Office

Hours

Monday—Friday
10 a.m.—4:30p.m.

Office Phone:
(989) 652-6201

Pastor Patrick

ISRAEL

flesh that lives exalted, ruling over all things, and the body we receive in the Lord's Supper.

Since the promise of a Savior has come true, those Jews who reject Jesus are no longer God's chosen people. We, Christian believers, are God's chosen people; true, spiritual Israel. Some Christians believe we have to support the modern nation of Israel in order to honor God's word that promises them the land. That is not in agreement with Scripture.

Jesus himself predicted the destruction of Jerusalem as a preview of final judgment on humans who reject him as Lord. We as citizens are free to support Israel in political activism or how we vote, but Christians are not bound to by God's Word. In fact, while most Palestinians

(the ethnic Arabs who live in the land of Israel) are Muslim, about 10% of them are Christians.

The purpose of this study was in no way to tell our members how to vote or what to think about foreign policy. It was to free our members from misconceptions about Israel that some Christians put forward so that they can be responsible citizens without mistaken interpretations of the Bible influencing them.

Recordings of the class sessions from this study can be found at our YouTube channel (youtube.com => search "St. John's Frankenthuth"). If you would like the paper materials and maps, feel free to contact me.

As a follow up to this study, August will feature a midweek class on Islam. Check the calendar for dates and times, and I hope to see you there!

Pastor Patrick Ernst

A Prelude to BLTS History

The seminary celebrated 75 years of training shepherds for the church on Sunday, June 20, 2021.



In his second letter to Timothy St. Paul directs, "... the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). Our forefathers took these words to heart. They were concerned that the Norwegian Synod had properly trained pastors and other servants of the Word. It was self-

evident to them that those in the public ministry should know how to interpret the Scriptures and that they should be able to convey its teachings to others. They were to have a love of God's Word and a love for souls. With this in mind the synod desired to establish a college and seminary

To learn more about the history of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary visit <https://www.blts.edu/about/history/>

Confessions Corner

Confessions Corner

Fourth Commandment

Small Catechism

You shall honor your father and your mother
that it may be well with you and you may live
long on the earth.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we may
not despise or anger our parents and masters,
but give them honor, serve them, obey them,
and hold them in love and esteem.

Large Catechism

To the position of fatherhood and motherhood
God has given special distinction above all po-
sitions that are beneath it. We must, therefore,
impress this truth upon the young
[Deuteronomy 6:7] that they should think of
their parents as standing in God's place. They
should remember that however lowly, poor,
frail, and strange their parents may be, never-
theless, they are the father and the mother giv-
en to them by God. Parents are not to be de-
prived of their honor because of their conduct
or their failings.

Learn, therefore, what is the honor toward par-
ents that this commandment requires:

- a. They must be held in distinction and es-
teem above all things, as the most precious
treasure on earth.
- b. In our words we must speak modestly to-
ward them [Proverbs 15:1]. Do not address
them roughly, haughtily, and defiantly. But
yield to them and be silent, even though
they go too far.



HAM DISHONORS HIS FATHER, NOAH
(GENESIS 9)

- c. We must show them such honor also by
works. We must serve them, help them,
and provide for them when they are old,
sick, inform, or poor.

You should be heartily glad and thank God
that he has chosen you and made you worthy
to do a work so precious and pleasing to him.
Only note this: although this work [of honoring
parents] is regarded as the most humble and
despised, consider it great and precious. Oh,
what a high price all Carthusians, monks, and
nuns would pay if in all their religious activities
they could bring into God's presence a single
work done by virtue of his commandment.
Where will these poor wretched persons hide
when, in the sight of God and all the world,
they shall blush with shame before a young
child who has lived according to this com-
mandment [Matthew 18:1–4]? It is our duty be-
fore the world to be grateful for benefits and
every good that we have from our parents.

CONFESSION'S CORNER (continued)

In this commandment belongs a further statement about all kinds of obedience to persons in authority who have to command and govern. For all authority flows and is born from the authority of parents. Where a father is unable alone to educate his rebellious and irritable child, he uses a schoolmaster to teach the child.

The same should also be said about obedience to civil government. This is all included in the place of fatherhood and extends farthest of all relations. Here "father" is not one person from a single family, but it means the many people the father has as tenants, citizens, or subjects. Through them, as through our parents, God gives to us food, house and home, protection, and security.

Besides these there are still spiritual fathers. There is need that this truth about spiritual fatherhood also be taught to the people. For those who want to be Christians are obliged in God's sight to think them worthy of double honor who minister to their souls [1 Timothy 5:17-18].

This ought to encourage us and give us hearts that melt in love for those to whom we owe honor.

LIFE HAPPENS



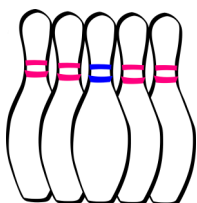
Check out God's Yellow Pages located on the kiosk! Featuring many psalms, bible readings and proverbs to help guide you through life happenings and events. Take the yellow pages

Whatever your *Heart* clings
to and confides in, that is
really *your God*.

~Martin Luther

Fun Fact about Martin Luther

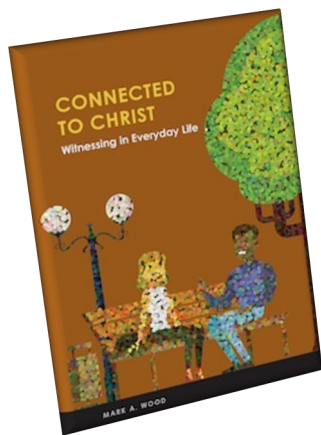
For recreation the Luthers, Martin and Katharine, enjoyed a bowling alley in their garden, chess and music.



They had a pet dog and grew most of their own food in a small garden at the Black Cloister and later as a farm in Wittenberg.

2003 Delivier Donegan Enterprises

August's book recommendation:



Connected to Christ: Witnessing in Everyday Life by Mark Wood

Witnessing starts simply: with one person, broken by sin, speaking to another broken person. Together, they follow the Holy Spirit's guidance to find the ultimate Healer: Christ. It doesn't require your life being perfect, nor does it require a vast knowledge of Christianity. The Spirit will work through you to plant the seeds of Christ's love in the person's heart. Rev. Dr. Mark A. Wood invites you and your church members to walk together and find a new definition of witnessing. Using a gardening metaphor of plowing, planting, watering, waiting, and harvesting, you can see how the seeds your congregation plants now, with the help of the Holy Spirit, can be harvested by future generations of Christians to bring those broken by sin to the Savior.

You can purchase this book at Concordia Publishing House (cph.org) or see Jeremy Aiello for additional information.

*Our thoughts
and prayers
Are with you*

I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone ~ for kings and all those in authority.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

May God's comfort surround the family and friends of those who have fallen asleep in Jesus and give them peace in knowing that their loved ones have found eternal peace.

The following Memorials were made in honor of Beverly Dammann, Eugene Bierlein and Elroy Schluckebier :

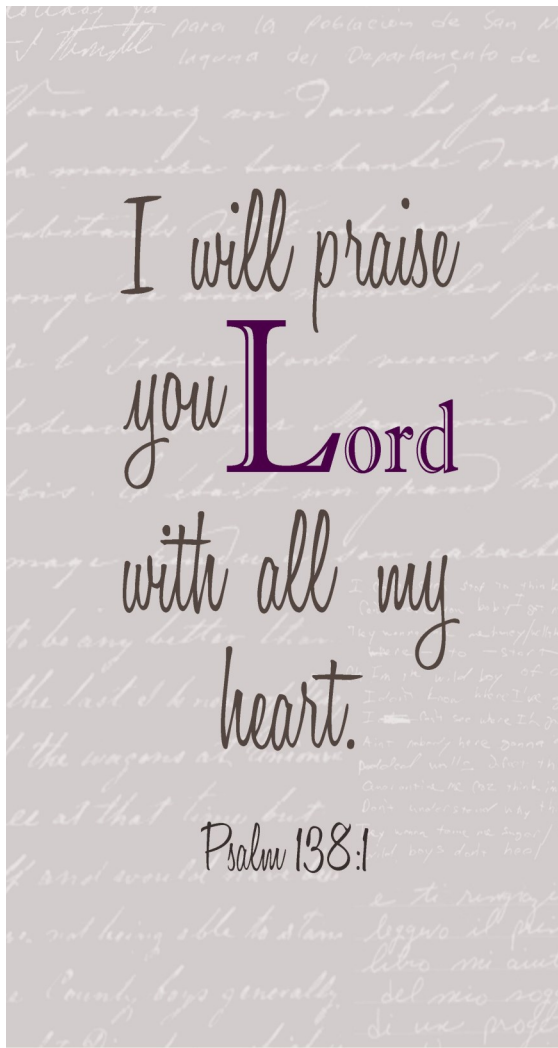
General Fund: \$510.00

Handbell Fund: \$30.00

Bible Word Search Puzzle

Y N N J D R E H P E H S K S T
N J E E M M C E S K A L B A V
T G V S R L N I D B Z E S L Q
K X A U K E E F O R G B I V U
B T E S D D L M E E A E N A E
O R H E O I I T L Z B Z S T T
N A E G F N T P B E R E C I N
S F H V A N S K A N I J P O E
L F A T O K E U R E E W R N M
E X I B O R P W A B L M I C H
G O B O E U P T P E X A E E C
N O B F S L Y H E M V D S X R
A Y H P O S O L I H P A T W A
Q G A N G E L M H O A R A H P
E L E I K E Z E P R O P H E T

ABEL
ABOMINATION
ADAM
ANGEL
ANGELS
BOOKS
EBENEZER
EDEN
EZEKIEL
GABRIEL
GOD
HEAVEN
JESUS
JEZEBEL
PARABLE
PARCHMENT
PESTILENCE
PHARAOH
PHILOSOPHY
PRIEST
PROPHET
PROVERB
SALVATION
SHEPHERD
SINS



RESURRECTION WORD JUMBLE

Who am I? Unscramble each name on the right using the clues given in each statement on the left. Your answers will be names of people who were important in the story of Jesus' resurrection.

- I had Jesus killed to try to keep the peace. Who am I? **I T L A P E**

- When I saw Jesus die, I knew he was an innocent man. Who am I? **O R N C I T U N E**

- I asked for Jesus' body so I could bury it before the Sabbath. Who am I? **P O J E S H**

- I wanted Pilate to post guards at Jesus' tomb. Who am I? **A C A S H A P I**

- I was resurrected on the third day. Who am I? **E S S U J**

- I was crying in the garden by the empty tomb. Who am I? **R A Y M**

- I ran to the tomb with John to see if Jesus' body was gone. Who am I? **E T P R E**

- I did not believe Jesus was alive until I saw him. Who am I? **S T A H O M**
