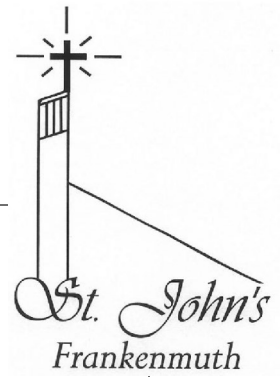


THE VICTORY



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

October 2021

THE HIDDEN LEDGER

My wife and I bought a house this year, and the family selling it left several books behind for us to keep. They knew I was a pastor, so most of them were religious books they thought I might be interested in. But among the catechisms and hymnals, there was a cash ledger from the man who had our house built in the 1950s and had lived there ever since. He had been keeping track of his income and expenses in the mid-1940s, and the amounts of money going in and out are nothing compared to the money we exchange today. The transactions are sometimes literally pennies: 6¢ for stamps; 10¢ for a piece of pie; 86¢ for gas (probably a full tank!). His wages didn't have to be very high to cover expenses on that scale. They hover around \$20.00 a week.

Of course, today people carry thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of dollars in mortgages or other debt. When I hear about the spending of the federal government, it's hard for me to even comprehend how much money a trillion dollars is. I have no frame of reference for that much money. There has been talk at various times about doing away with the penny because its value is so small and decreases all the time with inflation. Things cost more today than they did in the 1940s, but they aren't necessarily more *expensive*. If something's expensive, it costs a lot in relation to your budget. 86¢ of gas

could seem expensive if you only had a \$20 bill to get you through the whole week!

For each of us, there is a hidden ledger kept in the accounting office of God. In your ledger is recorded all your actions and words, along with the thoughts and attitudes and motivations that drove them. And even for every "good deed" you have done, which people think stands to their credit, selfish motivations and imperfect execution actually plunge you deeper in moral debt to God. Christ came to earth and bought us back, redeemed us, as the catechism says, "not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and his innocent suffering and death" (Explanation to the Apostles' Creed, Article 2). Jesus has cancelled our great debt of sin to God, so that no matter how much or deeply you have sinned, Jesus has met the price. In fact, it's by sizing up your sin in all its magnitude with the standard of God that you realize you have trillion-dollar sins, extremely expensive for Christ to pay; but that realization should impress on you how "precious" Jesus' blood and suffering really are. Christ calls sinners to bring their debts, have their ledger put in the positive with his righteousness, and be written into the Book of Life:

(cont. page 2)

Worship Service

Sunday at 10 a.m.

**Youth Sunday
School 9 a.m.**

Bible Classes
Sunday: 9 a.m.
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.

Service Broadcast

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

Church Office Hours
Monday—Thursday
10 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Phone
(989) 652-6201

Pastor Patrick Ernst
(612) 845-9162

THE HIDDEN LEDGER (CONTINUED)

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

"A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of

both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (Luke 7:36–50)

~Pastor Ernst



October's book recommendation:

The People's Bible Commentary Series

By Jeremy Aiello

The People's Bible Commentary series is a Bible commentary for everyone. The authors of the series have served as pastors, college teachers, or seminary professors. Each author began with the original Hebrew or Greek text and then worked to bring the message of God's Word to Christians who are looking to dive deeper into their study of the Bible. Two important truths guide all the commentaries: First, the Bible is God's inspired Word and is therefore true and reliable. Second, the central message of the entire Bible is Jesus Christ.

You will be pleased to know that St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church has the entirety of the People's Bible Commentary series in our library, ready for you to use. This series is arranged by book, and contains helpful insights and expositions of the Scriptures, yet delivers the information in a manner that anybody can understand. If you are interested in beginning a personal study of any Bible book, consider borrowing the People's Bible Commentary volume of that book to better enrich your Scriptural study.

Sixth Commandment

Small Catechism

You shall not commit adultery

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we may lead a pure and decent life in words and deeds, and each love and honor his spouse.

Large Catechism

The commandment really takes aim at adultery, because among the Jewish people ... adultery was the most common form of unchastity. But among us there is such a shameful mess and the very dregs of all vice and lewdness. Therefore, this commandment is directed against all kinds of unchastity, whatever it may be called. Not only is the outward act of adultery forbidden, but also every kind of cause, motive, and means of adultery. Everyone must live chastely himself and help his neighbor do the same. So by this commandment God wishes to build a hedge round about and protect every spouse so that no one trespasses against him or her.

But this commandment is aimed directly at the state of marriage and gives us an opportunity to speak about it. Understand and mark well how gloriously God honors and praises this estate. For both Church and civil estates must humble themselves and all be found in this estate. Therefore, it is the most common and noblest estate that runs through all Christendom. Yes, it extends through all the world. Yet there are some exceptions (although few) whom God has es

pecially set apart. They are not fit for the married estate. Or there are individuals whom he has released by a high, supernatural gift so that they can maintain chastity without this estate [Matthew 19:11, 12].

Let me now say in conclusion what this commandment demands: Everyone should live chaste in thought, word, and deed in his condition—that is, especially in the estate of marriage. But also everyone should love and value the spouse God gave to him [Ephesians 5:33]. For where marital chastity is to be maintained, man and wife must by all means live together in love and harmony.



DAVID AND BATHSHEBA
(2 SAMUEL 11)

Church Budget Update

St. John's September Budget update:

YTD Income: \$111,347.45
TYD Expenses: \$143,281.15
Net Loss: **-\$ 31,933.70**

A Return to Original Foundations

We teach nothing new. We teach what is old and what the apostles and all godly teachers have taught, inculcated, and established before us. And would to God that we, too, could well inculcate and establish it that we may have it not only in our mouths but, well considered, also in the depth of our hearts and may use it especially in the agony of death.

What Luther Says - #2689; p. 861

Noah's Ark Mystery

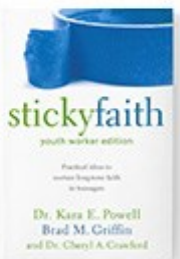
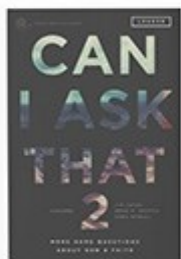
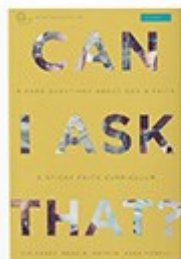
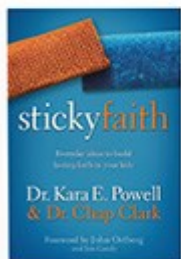
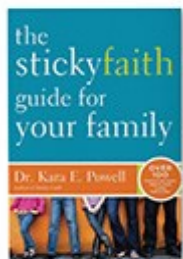
Anyone have an idea of where the replica of Noah's ark pictured below came from? Or how long it has been here? Many remember seeing the ark in the Sunday School classrooms in the new parish center, but have no further info about it. If you know anything, the Archives is very interested in solving this mystery!



What Should I Do When My Kid Says, "I'm Not Going to Church?"

According to the Fuller Youth Institute, giving seniors a “graduation Bible” and hoping for the best just isn't cutting it. Roughly 50% of students walk away from the church after they graduate high school. **That's the bad news. But here's the good news: research shows that parents are one of the primary influences on their child's faith.**

Sticky Faith is an innovative, research-based, and extensively field-tested movement designed to equip parents and ministry leaders with insights and ideas for nurturing long-term faith in children and young people. Because of the Fuller Youth Institute's six years of research with more than 500 young people, 100 churches, and 50 families, Sticky Faith resources are a “must have” for churches and families eager to point their young people toward long-term faith. For more information visit <https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/growingyoung/research>





Did you Know?.

How traveling home for Luther shaped our Lutheran Faith A summer thunderstorm sealed Luther's religious fate

Before he set out on the path of religion, Luther was training to be a lawyer. Yet his life at that time was also fraught with near-death accidents. In 1503, while traveling home for Easter, the sword he was carrying cut his leg and [severed a main artery](#). He nearly bled to death before a doctor could be found to sew up the wound. Then, in 1505 and on the verge of becoming a lawyer, he was caught outside in a terrible thunderstorm. Luther [called out to Saint Anne](#) to save him



and promised to become a monk if she did. He survived the storm and entered the Augustinian cloister of Erfurt several weeks later, despite his

friends' efforts to convince him not to.

Smithsonian Magazine—October 2017



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

I 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:

Mary Ernst, Tricia Johnson, David Maves and Junior Ryle:

General Fund:	\$1140.00
Missions:	\$ 250.00
Media Ministry:	\$ 250.00

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

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as
 you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.

Colossians 3:16

NAMES IN THE BIBLE WORD SCRAMBLE

1. iashia
2. jsdua
3. nawder
4. bamraha
5. raachzaih
6. cjbao
7. imcah
8. entpesh
9. udsedath
10. usjes
11. isttu
12. eossm
13. agrha
14. lbaoromehwt
15. jelialh
16. ikeelze
17. einald
18. eihnaehm
19. htmaetw
20. rtpee

