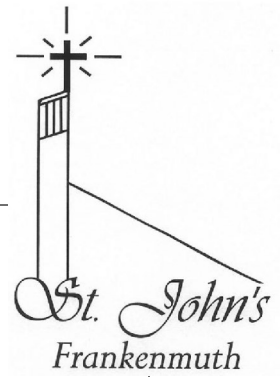


THE VICTORY



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

November 2021

SYNOD SUPPORT

In the late 1800s, Lutherans in Minnesota founded their own church body, the Minnesota Synod, which became part of the Wisconsin Synod in 1917. A history book was written in 1910 for the 50th anniversary of the Minnesota Synod, founded in 1860, and in the forward of that book, the authors talk about why anyone would belong to a synod. The word “synod” comes from two Greek words, *syn* “with” + *odos* “way, path.” So the churches in a synod are “with each other on the way,” or those who “walk together” in their church teaching and practice.

If we think the draw toward independent congregations is strong today (just look at the rise of “non-denominational” churches), imagine how strong it was when the Midwest was a frontier and Christians were scattered and unorganized. It probably seemed in those days that church had to be organized around what’s practical, like every other aspect of life where practicality meant survival. But as these writers remind us, the synod is a practical blessing, one that doesn’t suck life out of the local church, but strengthens it, especially when there’s trouble or controversy.

This excerpt is taken from *Die Geschichte der Minnesota Synode*.

“God’s Word does not speak of founding synods or affiliating oneself with one, so synods are a human institution. Nevertheless, a Lutheran congregation should, when it has the opportunity, join itself with other true-believing congregations into a synod, seizing the

opportunity with joy. The benefit is that all involved can mutually strengthen and fortify each other in our most holy faith. They motivate each other and effectively work in the same effort, which the Lord has given to his church on earth. What is too difficult for a single congregation to do becomes possible when congregations join together. We should not only be diligent to keep the unity in the Spirit through the bond of peace, but also serve one another with the gifts which God has given us; for we are all members of one body. Sure, in a field of crops each stalk stands alone, but because it stands together with countless other stalks of grain, it can lean on and be supported by the other stalks. It is exactly the same with synodical communion.

“Many congregations have completely false conceptions of belonging to a synod, and out of these thoughts follow the meaningless fears of a connection to a synod. This is what they fear: when we join ourselves to the synod: our property becomes that of the synod, we have to bring in a lot more money and forfeit our independence because we’re under the authority of the synod’s administration, etc. In all of these fears stands not one true word. As little of your own personal property that you lose when joining a congregation is the amount lost by the single congregation through the gathering together with other congregations into a synod. The synod does not demand a fixed amount on congregations to fund the synod’s work like the authorities who give you taxes that you absolutely must pay.

(continued on 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

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

Office Phone
(989) 652-6201

Pastor
Patrick Ernst
(612) 845-9162

SYNOD SUPPORT

“Also, no congregation should be afraid of losing independence by being connected to a synod. Those fears make a congregation keep itself away from the rights and power God is lending to them. That isolated congregation remains alone before the highest court and under the law of Christ. The truth is, in a synod congregations receive certain rights that they lacked as an independent congregation, such as the right to advise and vote in the synod. As one congregation serves the others, those other synod congregations serve that one as partners of the peace, as fellow fighters of the faith which has been bestowed on God’s holy people, as night-watchmen who warn and comfort every time there is a need. Remaining independent and separate

from other true-believing congregations brings much greater danger and disadvantages. One such congregation, through no fault of anyone else, is dependent on itself alone, and in times of trouble, when division threatens, or other points of contention break in, the door to brotherly help remains closed, and the enemy usually claims that field. Brothers who grow and pray with us, who warn us when danger threatens, who stand with us in our hardships, who comfort us in our suffering, who direct us to the truth when we err, who spur us onwards to God-pleasing works, they are surely no danger to our independence.”

~ Pastor Patrick Ernst

Living Lutheran During this Holiday Season

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations (Psalm 100:4-5).

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, pastors everywhere write corny, predictable articles about how we should be thankful and count our blessings. They’ll prattle on about how crucial it is for us to focus on the riches we have in Christ. They’ll stress the importance of discerning between the things we *want* and the things we *need*.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/11/a-life-of-thanksgiving/>

2021 Year-to-Date Financial Status

YTD Income: \$126,753.03 YTD Expenses: \$159,379.97 Net Loss: **-\$32,626.94**

Confessions Corner

Seventh Commandment

Small Catechism

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we may not take our neighbor's money or property, nor get them with bad products or crooked deals, but help him to improve and protect his property and business.

Large Catechism

After the commandment about you personally and your spouse, next comes the commandment about temporal property. God also wants property protected. He has commanded that no one shall take away from, or diminish, his neighbor's possessions. For to steal is nothing else than to get possession of another's property wrongfully. This includes all kinds of advantage in all sorts of trade to the disadvantage of our neighbor. Now, this is indeed quite a widespread and common vice. But it is so little considered and noticed that it surpasses all measure. So if all thieves who did not want to be known as thieves were to be hanged on the gallows, the world would soon be devastated. There would be a lack both of executioners and gallows. [Hanging was a penalty for theft in medieval Germany]

Let me explain this somewhat plainly. For example, consider a manservant or maidservant who does not serve faithfully in the house, does damage, or allows damage to be done when it could be prevented. In whatever way this can be done purposely (I'm not talking about what happens by mistake and against one's will), you can in a year steal thirty or forty florins [tens of thousands of dollars in today's money]. If another servant had taken that much money secretly or carried it away, he would be hanged with the rope. But here you may even express defiance and become rude, and no one dare call you a thief.

I say the same also about mechanics, workmen, and day laborers. They all follow their evil thoughts and

never know enough ways to overcharge people, while they are lazy and unfaithful in their work. Furthermore, in the market and in common trade also, this practice is in full swing and force to the greatest extent. There one openly cheats another with bad merchandise; false measures, weights, and coins; and by nimbleness and strange finances [Proverbs 20:10]. Or he takes advantage of him with clever tricks.

Now the person who greedily despises this commandment may indeed pass by and escape the hangman. But he shall not escape God's wrath and punishment.

Whoever now seeks and desires good works will find here more than enough to do that are heartily acceptable and pleasing to God. So we are to be richly compensated for all that we do for our neighbor's good and friendship. You have a rich Lord. He is certainly enough for you. He will not allow you to come up short in anything or to lack [Psalm 37:25]. So you can with a joyful conscience enjoy a hundred times more than you could scrape together with unfaithfulness and wrong.



ACHAN THE THIEF
(JOSHUA 7)



November's Book Recommendation from Jeremy Aiello

THE KINGDOM OF THE CULTS BY WALTER MARTIN

In an era of rapid growth of false religions worldwide, Christians need information they can trust. This comprehensive new edition of the leading book on cults will equip you--no matter your background—to understand and use biblical truth to counter false religions, including many that masquerade as mainstream Christianity.

Reflecting the developments in cults and world religions in recent years, this edition, updated by expert Jill Martin Rische (daughter of Walter Martin), gives you the authoritative information you need to know. As our culture becomes less and less outwardly Christian, awareness of the belief systems of those around us has never been more vital.

Readable and reliable for everyone, whether you're a teacher, a pastor, or a regular church attendee, *The Kingdom of the Cults* remains the go-to reference book on this crucial topic.

This book is available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), and a copy will soon be provided to the church library.

Dear God,

I give thanks today for our veterans and their willingness to risk all for the sake of freedom. I pray You will bless them and their families. Protect them and heal them; comfort their hearts and grant them peace. May their dedication and honor never be forgotten.

Amen

FaithTap.com

Veteran's Day November 11

Being a military veteran means **you sacrificed a number of years of your life for the privilege of obeying orders from those of higher rank than you.** ... Being a U.S. military veteran also means you were willing to fight and die in service to this country. It meant being separated from friends, family and loved ones.

Thanks to all St. John's Veterans for the sacrifices you and your family endured to serve our country.

It's no doubt this time of the year brings both joy and tears . Whether missing a family member, juggling family gatherings, the stress of preparing for the Holidays, the up coming Michigan winter and the world's troubles, we need to take time for ourselves as we enter these last few months of 2021.



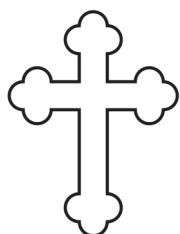
Being Mindful ~ The concept of mindfulness is simple, but becoming a more mindful person requires commitment and practice. Take a moment and consider mindfulness. Here are some tips to help you get started:

Take some deep breaths ~ Breathe in through your nose to a count of 4, hold for 1 second, and then exhale through the mouth to a count of 5. Repeat often.

Enjoy a stroll ~ As you walk, notice your breath and the sights and sounds around you. As thoughts and worries enter your mind, note them but then return to the present.

Practice mindful eating ~ Be aware of taste, textures, and flavors in each bite, and listen to your body when you are hungry and full.

Find mindfulness resources in your local community



Thoughts and Prayers

I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone~ for kings and all those in authority. I Timothy 2:1-2

The family and friends of Llorys Bosquet, Ray Cloutier, Beverly Dammann, Tricia Johnson and Donald Tuckey, who has fallen asleep in Jesus, have given memorials in their memory. May God's comfort surround them and give them peace in knowing that their loved one has found eternal peace with Jesus.

The following gifts and memorials were made in their honor:

Media Ministry: \$20.00

General Fund: \$560.00

Thanksgiving Word Search

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

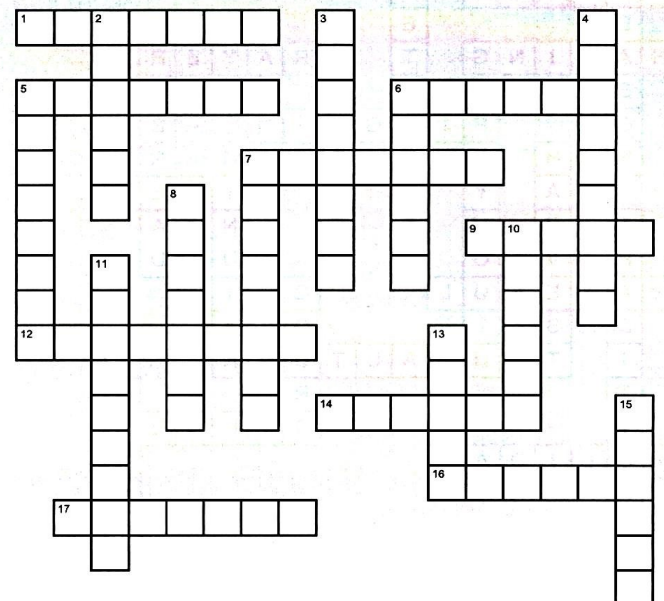
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X E A P I I Y T I N U M M O C X V I S P
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P M U A S B D W T L F C Y C A K H I W A
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WORD BAND

AUTUMN	LAUGHTER
BAKE	LEFTOVERS
BLESSINGS	LOVE
CHRIST	NAP
CHRISTIAN	NOVEMBER
CHURCH	PARAGE
FEAST	PIE
FELLOWSHIP	PRAISE
FRIENDS	PRAYERS
GATHERING	PUMPKIN
GIVING	SHARING
GOBBLE	TABLE
GOD	THURSDAY
GRATITUDE	TRADITION
GRAVY	TURKEY
HARVEST	WORSHIP
JESUS	YUM



Thanksgiving Crossword



ACROSS

- 1) Sweet course
- 5) Not hogging
- 6) Devout petition
- 7) Stranger in a strange land
- 9) Apple beverage
- 12) Most appreciative
- 14) Fall
- 16) You can dish it out
- 17) Festive time

DOWN

- 2) Three-month period
- 3) Early residents
- 4) Johnnycake
- 5) Thanksgiving staple
- 6) Traffic stopper
- 7) Site of first Thanksgiving
- 8) Gather crops
- 10) Native American
- 11) It's handed down
- 13) Pumpkin kin
- 15) Gobbling fowl