



# St. John's

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## Ev. Lutheran Church

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**VOL. 109 No. 8 MONTHLY**

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

### **SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 2017 – 2018**

Sound Words Academy (SWA), our weekly Wednesday Christian education evening, starts back up on the Wednesday after Labor Day, 6 September. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can scan the course listing. We hope that everyone in the congregation will be able to find at least one thing of interest in our initial offerings this year. Child care is provided for the 5:55-6:50 class time, when most classes are offered.

There are some *changes* we're hoping to bring about this year.

**Scheduling** *SWA should be relaxed enough to be enjoyable.* To loosen up the schedule a bit we've spaced out classes and shortened them up (just a bit), started dinner earlier, and disentangled Rhythm of Faith choir from Jr. Lutherans.

**Space** *This year we've got 18 catechumens in YCat II.* To accommodate them, YCat II will now meet downstairs in the undercroft. Given the amount of space (and the fact that the undercroft is more temperate) parents can comfortably join the class with their catechumens. Other classes will be spread out a bit more to avoid voice competition.

**Evening Prayer** *The centerpiece of SWA is Evening Prayer.* Why? Because it's in the Church's very nature to receive the gifts of Christ in formal worship (see Acts 2:42). You can think of it as the pumping heart that keeps the Church, as the Body of Christ, alive. Having gladly learned God's Word, come and gladly *hear* it, and join with your fellow believers in singing the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

**Encouraging Prayer (before meals)** *This year we'll be working hard to make prayer a part of every meal.* Luther reminds us to "receive our daily bread with thanksgiving." If you arrive at your table with your food before or after prayer time, the tent cards have Luther's mealtime prayers for your use.

**Keeping up interest** *We've shortened up the duration of several of the Adult classes.* The sweet spot for "not too little" and "not too much" for adult topics is somewhere between 6 and 8 weeks, depending on the topic. While the YCat classes already move at a brisk pace between several activities an evening to accommodate young learners, the shorter adult classes will adapt well to the needs of older learners. The Newsletter and Sunday bulletin will have updates on when new courses are offered. The shortened length should allow busy high schoolers to take them in, too. SWA isn't just for little kids and "us oldsters," but for the whole congregation.

**College students** *If Christ has baptized them, He's serious about saving them.* So as His Body we're making a greater, more concerted effort to reach out to the LCMS students at Washburn, and we've

tailored the College Students and Young Adults class to meet their interests and scheduling needs better (the class ends *before* finals!). At the same time, that class continues to have something of great value for young adults *out* of college. If you see college students at SWA embrace them. Sit with them, eat with them, show them the church, introduce them to parishioners, invite them to your house for dinner. Make them feel that St. John's is what we hope it will be for them: their church home away from their church home, where through Word and Sacrament they can remain in Christ.

***The more things change...*** Otherwise, what SWA was last year it'll be again this year—an evening for all ages to:

- engage intensively with God's holy and life-giving Word and grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ
- receive the gift of the Word of Christ proclaimed
- sing to “God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” (from the text of the *Phos hilaron* in Evening Prayer)
- mingle with, get to know, console, and encourage fellow believers...and
- enjoy an excellent home-cooked meal with your brothers and sisters in Christ

May the Lord richly bless all of you as you lay claim to these things the Lord has given you by baptismal right!



**Senior Pastor - Rev. J. S. Bruss, ext. 104**

**Associate Pastor – Rev. D. M. Kerns, ext. 101**

**Deaconess - Linda S. Kinnett, ext. 102**

**Kantor - Rev. Roger M. Goetz**

**Associate Kantor - Bethany M. Johnson**

**TLS Teachers - Ashley Jensema, Andrea Kosmicki, Edith Kerns, Rachel Kathman**

## SOUND WORDS ACADEMY COURSE LISTING 2017-2018

### Children

#### **Rhythm of Faith Choir (6 September – 9 May, 5:30-5:55 p.m.; Johnson)**

Calling all 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders! Join together in God's gift of music to confess the truth of God's Word in song. Rhythm of Faith develops life-long skills in singing, ringing, and reading music. You'll have opportunities to participate as a choir in Evening Offices at 7 p.m. and Sunday morning services and to appreciate the rich heritage of Lutheran hymnody and liturgy.

#### **Jr. Lutherans (6 September – 9 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Sweet)**

This fast-paced Bible, Catechism, and Lutheran history trivia game places Lutherans aged 4 – 12 yrs. in competition with one another and teams from other congregations in order to assist heads of the household fulfill their vocation to teach the Christian faith to their children. But the trivia is hardly *trivial*. Instead, it places in the minds and hearts of our children fundamental Christian knowledge that can be built upon in formal catechesis.

### Adult Offerings

#### **Dying the Lutheran Way (Six weeks; 6 September – 11 October, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Bruss)**

When does Christian death start? Ever wondered what a pastor does when he comes to the deathbed of a Christian? How about that white thing on top of the casket—what's that about? How in the world does a funeral service get planned? And what about cremation and burial? This class will address these and many more questions, culminating in an opportunity to work alongside the pastor and your fellow Christians as you think about what your own funeral might look like. For the dying.

**Heresies of the Early Church (Five weeks; 18 October – 15 November, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Kerns)**

There are five major heresies which have plagued the Church, and the same ones keep creeping in. The earliest one (1<sup>st</sup> century) is that of the Judaizers. We will look at that one discerning truth from error. We will then look at the Gnostic heresy, the Arian heresy, the Pelagian heresy, and the Socinian heresy. While these heresies arose centuries and millennia ago, they are by no means extinct.

**Reading & Understanding the Psalms (Three weeks; 29 November – 13 December, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Bruss)**

“Pastor, I think I should read the psalms, but I don’t understand them.” What is the “Hymnal of Israel” all about? Are there psalms elsewhere in Scripture? Is there a key to understanding the psalms? And how about their use in the Divine Service and Offices of the church? This class will introduce you to a handful of principles useful for making the psalms your own hymnal and prayer book, with time to put it into practice.

**Leviticus: The Life Is in the Blood (Six weeks; 3 January – 7 February, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Kerns)**

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” Leviticus was given to instruct Israel how to live in worship before God. God is holy, and Leviticus shows us how He gives His holiness to us. From the New Testament, we learn how the tabernacle worship foreshadows the redemption found in Jesus Christ.

**The Personalities of the Lutheran Reformation (Four weeks; 21 February – 14 March, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Bruss)**

You’ve heard the names before: Cranach, Bugenhagen, Bodenstein von Karlstadt, Staupitz, Müntzer, Philipp von Hessen, John the Steadfast, Frederick the Wise, Albrecht von Mainz, Tetzl, Melancthon (how do you even *say* that?). Luther was surrounded by these, a host of helpful, and sometimes not-so-helpful, colleagues and opponents, all of whom played a key role in the Reformation. You’ll find out their key contributions, get to know them by face (through the paintings that have been left to us), and consider their legacy.

**Portrayed as Crucified before Your Eyes: The Art of the Lutheran Reformation (Six weeks; 4 April – 9 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Kerns)**

When Martin Luther nailed up his list of complaints against the Catholic Church, he was claiming that the Catholic Church had become obsessed with money and power, and did not encourage people to live by their faith in Christ. As you know, this began a division within the Christian church known as the Protestant Reformation. This religious division impacted numerous things including major changes in the arts.

**Hebrews (Fall Term, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Hintz)**

Luther describes Hebrews as a marvelously fine epistle. It discusses Christ’s priesthood masterfully and profoundly on the basis of the Scriptures and extensively interprets the Old Testament in a fine way. Join this class for a wonderful look into the mysteries of God in Christ.

**College Students and Young Adults Offerings 2017 – 2018****C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (Eleven weeks; 6 September – 15 November, 7:45-8:40 p.m.)**

*Mere Christianity* is a classic work of apologetics that all Christians do well to encounter at least once in their life. In his winsome manner, Lewis defends and explains the Faith. Perennially relevant.

**Adult Catechesis**

**Fall Adult Catechesis (Fourteen (or so) weeks; 6 September – 13 December; 7:45-8:40 p.m.)**

**Spring Adult Catechesis (Fourteen (or so) weeks; starting 3 January 2018; 7:45-8:40 p.m.)**

**Youth Catechesis**

**YCat I (6 September – 9 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Kinnett)**

**YCat II (6 September – 9 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Bruss & Kerns)**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 IS ST. JOHN’S CONGREGATION’S  
143RD ANNIVERSARY!**

## 2017 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of August 21, we had received 170 pledges totaling \$527,898 for our July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 pledge year. If you have not been able to turn in your pledge, you may still do so. Additional pledge cards can be picked up in the office. If you have not yet pledged, we only ask that you give prayerful consideration to how best to use the gifts we all receive from God. St. John's is truly blessed with a giving congregation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dave Graversen or Andy Gritman as members of the 2017 Stewardship Campaign Committee.

### BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: BUDGET AND RECEIPTS REPORT

In an effort to keep our congregation informed about our financial situation, the Board of Stewardship has agreed to publish monthly budget reports. These reports are designed to give you a snapshot of our congregational support of the budget adopted by the voters assembly for 2017. We hope that you will find this information useful.

Through the month of July 2017

Budgeted Receipts through July	\$419,643.00
<u>Actual Receipts through July</u>	<u>\$393,018.68</u>
Shortfall through June	(\$26,624.32)

### UPCOMING REFORMATION 500 EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S AND AROUND

**In Topeka (sponsored by St. John's)**

Saturday, October 28	Iliff Commons, 7:30 a.m. registration; 8:00 a.m. start time (run/walk)
Sunday, October 29	Circuit 6 (Topeka-Lawrence) Reformation 500 Celebration Joint Divine Service, TPAC, 10:30 a.m. (no Divine Service at SJELC that day)
Tuesday, October 31	Oktoberfest, Luther Hall, SJELC, 5:30-7 p.m.
Tuesday, October 31	Reformation Day Divine Service (with incense), nave, SJELC, 7 p.m.
Saturday, November 11	Reformation Presentation, Prof. Joel Biermann of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Courtyard, SJELC, afternoon
Friday, November 10 or Saturday, November 11	Chili Cook-Off & Reformation Trivia to celebrate Luthers Geburtstag (Luther's Birthday), Luther Hall, SJELC, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 11	Reformation 500 Hymn Sing, nave, SJELC, 3 p.m.

**Around**

Sunday, October 15	Reformation 500 Hymn Festival, Helzberg Hall, Kaufmann Center for the Performing Arts, 7 p.m. Reservations are free by calling 816-994-7222 or by going to <a href="http://www.kauffmancenter.org">www.kauffmancenter.org</a>
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### 2017 FLOWER CALENDAR

The following services are available in the next few months if you would like to provide flowers for any of them: November 5, 12 & 19 and December 10 & 31.

## HEADING TO COLLEGE?

Do you have someone in your family who's at college or going off to college? St. John's would love to help the college-bound find an LCMS church and LCMS U chapter near their school. Please contact Pr. Bruss ([jbruss@stjlcms.org](mailto:jbruss@stjlcms.org) or 354.7132) with their email address and cell number so we can get a pastor near their school in touch with them. Remember, too, that for those who attend Washburn, or any local college, St. John's is the local LCMS U chapter, serving Washburn students on Sound Words Academy evenings with Evening Prayer and our Young Adults and College Students Bible Study afterwards.

## SEPTEMBER MONTHLY BREAKFAST

The breakfast on September 10 will be potluck. We are looking for some helpers to assist with preparing, serving, and cleanup. If you can help, please contact Deaconess Linda or Jim Simpson. Bring your favorite breakfast food to share between services

## THANK YOU'S

A special "thank you" from the Lutheran Braille Workers WC#31 to all those who contributed the Christmas/greeting cards for us to use in our Christmas Gospel books. They have been put to good use. I WILL continue to take your cards. There is a basket in the breezeway for your convenience

*Rosalinda Addington*

## NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY – NATIONAL NIGHT OUT RECAP

The Lord blessed us with no rain during the event. We had a total of 300 registered attendees, many from the immediate neighborhood. For the 5th year in a row, we received a \$750 mission outreach grant from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Those funds, combined with a \$100 grant from law enforcement, and funding from the Historic Old Town NIA, the expense of putting on the event was largely paid for. The **Neighborhood Care Team** express their sincere appreciation for those who volunteered at the event along with all St. John's members that attended the event and interacted with our neighbors. The neighbors truly enjoyed the evening!



## TLS NEWS

We thank these volunteers who helped on August 5 with repainting TLS classrooms and hallways and final touch-up work in the TLS gym: Jenn Ayres, Amanda Adams, Kathi Hachmeister, Corry Hogg, Carrie Moran, Valerie Thieme, as well as these Board members and staff Casey Ford, Judy Kennedy, Don Rankin, and Lynette Chada.

A special "thank you" goes to Byron Jones who recarpeted (single-handedly!) the 2nd grade classroom this summer and who responds to necessary maintenance repairs and classroom needs within the building i.e. plumbing repairs, hanging plaques, adjusting desks, etc.

The Pastoral Advisor to the TLS governing boards for 2017-2018 is Pastor Devin Kerns, and the new Chair for the TLS LSAT Board is Don Rankin. We thank Pastor Jake Wampfler and Nick Johnston for their leadership and service to TLS this past year.

Grandparents Day will be held Friday, September 8 from 8:00 to noon. The TLS Foundation will host breakfast for students and their guests during that morning's activities.

Plan to attend the TLS PTL Carnival on Saturday, September 9 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the 701 SW Roosevelt campus. There will be games, face painting, a dunk tank, cake walk, concessions, and lots more!

### FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food.”* Matt. 25:35

We have been offered an opportunity to participate in a humanitarian project called “Feed My Starving Children,” a NGO which packs and sends nutritious food to children in 70 countries where starvation is rampant. The organization began in 1987, and has grown tremendously. Over the last thirty years, 99.9 percent of the food and 92.7 percent of the monetary donations go directly to the children who need help the most.

We all have seen pictures of skin stretched over bones and bloated bellies. These children do exist, and our church has been asked to make monetary donations and to volunteer **just two hours** to package food. FMSC appears to be a safe and efficacious way to answer Jesus’ mandate, *“for I was hungry and you gave me food.”*

In partnership with other churches in the Topeka area, the packaging of the food will take place on March 3, 2018 here at St. John’s in Luther Hall. Children as young as five and adults as young as 100 and everyone in between are welcome and encouraged to participate. No cooking is involved. The ingredients are shipped to the site ready to be packaged on an assembly line. Our church’s goal is **fifty (50) volunteers**, but the more we have the more packages that can be sent. The reports from earlier volunteers from all over the country suggest that the experience is not only rewarding, but also enjoyable. For those who prefer, sit-down jobs are available.

Please consider helping as a team, as a family, or individually. If you even just think you might be able to help, please **sign up in the breeze way**.

### DOORSTEP NEWS

As donations came in and were sorted from Christmas in July, Doorstep has informed us that they do not have many toys! They plan to apply for Toys for Tots this year, but even with whatever they receive from them, they still need toys donated to cover the number of children in their 250 households. Please keep their Christmas Store in mind as you shop, and pick up a toy for a child from toddler to teen to help them make sure these kids have a good Christmas! You can also pick up some school supplies when they go on clearance for their Christmas Store!

Do you know about Doorsteps thrift store – The Dovetail Shoppe? It is located on the corner of 12th & Washburn. The Shoppe is Doorstep’s version of a thrift store. They ask for a reasonable donation for the items people choose. You will find clothing for men, women and children. There is a whole knick-knack room, books, collectibles, toys, furniture, games, holiday décor, shoes, formal dresses, pictures, dishes and more!

The Dovetail Shoppe has been open since the Fall of 1994. The monetary donations taken in at Dovetail are funneled back into services and agency needs at Doorstep. The manager, Ron, is there with his volunteers on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10am – 4pm. Help spread the word about this great little treasure!

Doorstep is open Monday – Friday from 8am – 3pm for donations. They are located at 1119 SW 10th Avenue (10th & Buchanan).

## **WOMEN'S LEAGUE CARING & MISSIONS**

### **School Kits Only**

LWML is continuing to prepare School Kits for the month of September. Items needed are displayed on the table beneath the LWML bulletin board. Please place donated items in the Choir Robe Room in the LWML cabinet (west wall). Thank you in advance for your donations. If you would rather the LWML do the shopping, monetary gifts will be accepted by:

## **LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION**

### **FALL QUARTERLY**

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24– 2 PM**

Save the last Sunday afternoon of September for a wonderful presentation by our own, Kris Bruss, entitled, *Capturing the True, the Noble, and the Lovely: The Philippians 4:8 Guide to Church Photography*. Kris has taken thousands of pictures at St. John's, many of which have ended up on the cutting room floor. Which shots make it, and which don't? In this presentation, she'll share some of those photos (likely with some familiar faces) and identify three key verses from Scripture that guide her as she snaps away and decides what to share. The double east doors will be open, as we'll meet in the Church Nave, followed by refreshments in the Courtyard. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## **ST. JOHNS WOMEN'S LEAGUE LWML**

It's that time of year again, time for LWML activities to start back up. If you are not a member of a Women's league LWML group and would like to be, we have 2 groups, Sarah Circle meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 with a short business meeting, bible study and refreshments with fellowship, Dorcas Circle meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00pm, also with a short business meeting, bible study and refreshments with fellowship.

Save the date September 30, 2017, Topeka Zone Fall Workshop to be hosted by St. John's Aliceville, KS, more information to follow.

LWML Sunday will be Sunday, October 8, 2017, our members will be providing the monthly breakfast. Remember to save your Best Choice labels and stamps. We also want to say thank you in advance for everyone who contributed to the Bargain and Bake sale in anyway. I will have the amounts in the next newsletter.

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Women's Bible Study on Tuesday mornings will resume weekly on September 5. All ladies are invited to join us.

## **LUTHERAN FINE ARTS COUNCIL**

The Lutheran Fine Arts Council of Topeka and Faith Lutheran Church will be hosting REFORMATION 500 ART EVENT on Friday, September 22nd from 6-9:00 p.m. at 1716 SW Gage. Local Lutheran artists will display/sell their fine art work. If you have displayed with past LFACT First Friday Art Walks and would like to show again or if you are a first time artist wanting to show, please contact Susan Thowe at [srthowe@gmail.com](mailto:srthowe@gmail.com) or 785-969-4342. There will also be a display of "Reformation Art" that depicts Luther or artists that have been associated with the Reformation, etc. If you have Reformation art work you would like to display, please contact Marlene Urban at [urban.marlene@att.net](mailto:urban.marlene@att.net) or 785-379-5306.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

September 3	The Wisdom of Solomon
September 10	Solomon Builds the Temple
September 17	God Provides for Elijah
September 24	Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

<i>The Lord gives wisdom.</i>	Proverbs 2:6
<i>[Jesus said,] “Your sins are forgiven.”</i>	Mark 2:5
<i>It is good to be near God.</i>	Psalms 73:28
<i>[Jesus said,] “Your sins are forgiven.”</i>	Mark 2:5
<i>In everything by prayer . . . let your requests be made known to God.</i>	Phil. 4:6
<i>The Lord, He is God.</i>	1 Kings 18:39
<i>In everything by prayer . . . let your requests be made known to God.</i>	Phil. 4:6

Thank you, parents for bringing your children to Sunday school where they can be nurtured in the faith through the Word of God. Why not set a good example for them and attend one of the bible classes during the Sunday school hour.

### YOU CAN IMPACT A CHILD’S LIFE BY BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT

The need for foster families in Kansas is ever-present. There are currently over 7,000 children in need of foster care. We are looking for compassionate families willing to open up their homes and hearts to children who are in need of a nurturing, supportive environment. FosterKansasKids helps you through the journey, making the process as smooth as possible, and providing your family the support you need through all of your questions and concerns. For more information call 1-844-380-2009 or visit the website: [www.fosterkskids.org](http://www.fosterkskids.org).



### THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19–20a)*  
 So that we may obtain faith in Christ, God instituted the ministry of teaching the gospel and administering the sacraments. Through the gospel and sacraments, as through means, God gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when He wills, in those who hear the gospel. (*Augsburg Confession*, Article 5)