



St. John's

Ev. Lutheran Church

901 SW Fillmore | Topeka, Kansas 66606-1445 | 785.354.7132 | www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org

VOL. 121 NO. 9 MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2018

SLAKING HUNGER AND THIRST

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”—Matthew 5:6

This is how things go in God’s world: What seems a curse is a blessing; and, conversely, what seems a blessing is a curse.

That’s the theology of the cross, the theology that sees things as they actually are. What we think of as a curse—hunger—is actually a blessing.

Why? Well, first of all, because God said so. And so it must be.

But it’s not *only* “because God said so,” as if God had made some irrational decree. In fact, quite the opposite. It’s because where there’s poverty, Christ is your wealth. Where there’s mourning, Christ is your joy. Where there’s meekness, you can boast in the Lord. Where there’s persecution, it’s because you’re in Christ (John 15:18). Where there’s death, Christ is your life (Col 3:3). Where there’s nothing at all for you, Christ becomes all in all (1 Cor 15:28). And where there’s thirst and hunger for righteousness, Christ is the one who slakes it with the righteousness He won.

So hang now, and follow this a little further. The Christian is, by definition, one who lacks—and one who seeks what s/he lacks from Christ. So if it’s in the nature of a Christian to seek from Christ what s/he lacks, it must be that s/he must find from Christ what s/he seeks where Christ wants to give it. And what He wants to give He gives through His holy Word *and* blessed Sacrament.

That’s what the Lord Jesus did for His disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24). He continued to do so through His Church into the Apostolic Age (see, e.g., Acts 20:7 and 1 Corinthians 11). And so the holy Christian Church from time immemorial has celebrated the Sacrament of the Altar every Lord’s Day—not just to celebrate it, but, in Christ’s stead, to slake the hunger and thirst of those who lack righteousness.

This biblical practice of affording Christians a regular opportunity to receive the Sacrament in turn informed from its earliest days the Lutheran practice of administering the Sacrament.

That’s what Philipp Melanchthon describes in the *Augsburg Confession*: “Because the Mass is for the purpose of giving the Sacrament, we have Communion every holy day, and if anyone desires the Sacrament, we also offer it on other days, when it is given to all who ask for it.” (AC 24.34)

By “every holy day” Melanchthon means every Sunday and feast day, for example, Christmas, Name and Circumcision of Jesus, Epiphany, Ascension, Michaelmas, etc. The early Lutherans even held Mass on an *ad hoc* basis, according to Melanchthon. Why? Because they knew the nature of the Christian: that the

Christian always seeks what s/he lacks *from Christ*, and that what Christ wants to give must be given as Christ wants to give it: through Word and Sacrament.

Things haven't changed so much. In fact, they haven't changed at all. Wherever there are Christians, there's hunger and thirst for the righteousness that only Christ can give, available only where Christ gives it.

Our own experience at St. John's has taught us this. With ever greater frequency we're finding that we're "holding Mass" on an *ad hoc* basis. As we discuss this with those who request it, we're discovering that though these folks had attended church on Sunday at their regular time we had sung Matins instead of celebrating the Divine Service. (Note that a person's "regular time" is often dictated by external things, such as a work schedule or, in the case of some of our members, an inability to get out of the house in time to make the 8:15 Divine Service.)

Now, we're certainly happy to oblige anyone who asks for the Sacrament. And we do. Even more, we want this article to be received as encouragement to ask.

But knowing how things go, we're also certain that the number of those who actually ask for the Sacrament in the middle of the week is just the tip of the iceberg, and discussions with various members of the congregation have borne this out.

And from the perspective of our work as pastors, this means we're not meeting the legitimate needs of the Christians committed to our care.

And so the pastors have discussed with the elders how we might improve our care of the flock. There's unanimity among the latter to move forward with celebrating the Divine Service at both services every Sunday as well as on the numerous feast days we've begun again to celebrate midweek. And while we've given ourselves a definite deadline of the end of January for every-Sunday, both-services Communion, we'd actually like to just get on with it and get there sooner rather later—for the sake of those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. With the beginning of the festival half of the church year at Michaelmas, 29 September, when the celebration of feasts has always been marked by celebrating the Sacrament, we expect that this old biblical, Lutheran practice will be in place well before our January deadline. May it be a great blessing to our congregation!

After all, this dear Sacrament is not just how Jesus keeps His Christians in the faith. Even more, it's how He slakes their hunger and thirst for a righteousness that can be found only in Him and gives them exactly what they need, the forgiveness of sins.



Senior Pastor - Rev. J. S. Bruss, ext. 104
Associate Pastor – Rev. D. M. Kerns, ext. 101
Kantor - Rev. Roger M. Goetz
Associate Kantor - Bethany M. Johnson
TLS Teachers - Andrea Kosmicki, Edith Kerns, Rachel Kathman

A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE

by Pastor Goetz

For 38 years, I have been on the called staff of St. John's, first as Assistant Pastor and Director of Music [= Kantor] and later as Associate Pastor. In all these years, I always enjoyed working with the staff and

people of the congregation and have been reluctant to stop working with such wonderful people, even though I am well past normal retirement age.

Some years ago, I was stricken with multiple myeloma, a kind of cancer, and reluctantly decided I had to retire. In answer to prayers, especially by many people at St. John's, God stabilized my health: my cancer doctor told me I didn't need him any more and they would just monitor my health with lab work very six months. Thanks be to God!

After months of thought and prayers about retirement, I finally made a decision and announced it to the called staff at the last part of the staff meeting on Monday afternoon, August 10. I am completely retiring as of October 1 with thankfulness to God for the multitude of things and people I enjoyed since moving to Topeka. A few of them follow.

In my early years at St. John's one of my privileges was taking Holy Communion to those unable to attend church. I enjoyed doing that at my previous church in Minnesota and also at St. John's. Also, I got to preach twice a month (instead of only once a month in Minnesota).

The area of music had many joys for me, including founding and directing the Kantorei, adding the use of instruments to worship (trumpet players were hard to find in Topeka back then), directing two of our three handbell choirs, enlarging the pipe organ, and adding two octaves of handbells plus hand chimes to our resources. Another wonderful thing is that St. John's has been blessed with so many organists: many congregations are fortunate to have one!

Beginning in 1988 I thoroughly enjoyed teaching eighth-grade religion for many years at Topeka Lutheran School (TLS). From 1996 to 2004 I was privileged to serve on the TLS Board.

Another pleasure I had was being involved with the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the following ways:

- 1985-1994 Chairman of the Kansas District Worship Committee
- 1985-1989 Archivist of the Kansas District
- 1988 Editor of *A Century of Grace: Centennial History of the Kansas District, 1888-1988* for which I also wrote one of its chapters.
- 2000 Chair of the floor committee on education at the Kansas District Convention

I also wrote articles which appeared in *The Lutheran Witness* and *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly*.

Upon moving to Topeka in 1980, I transferred my membership in the American Guild of Organists (AGO) to the Topeka Chapter of the AGO. Other organists in Topeka and Lawrence became good friends, and I served our chapter as Dean (president) three times, Sub-Dean (program director) twice, and chaplain from 1994 to 2001. It was a delight to be one of the organists playing in Topeka AGO member recitals, including the AGOs "World's Largest Organ Recital" put on by AGO chapters all over the country on April 14, 1996. Incidentally, beginning in 1970, I occasionally gave solo organ recitals in churches in five states.

Through a friend in the Topeka AGO, Betty and I began attending concerts of the Topeka Symphony Orchestra (TSO). Over time, I endowed eight chairs in the Symphony. I also served as a TSO Endowment Trustee from 2012 to 2018.

At the invitation of Neil Firestone, I joined the Topeka Chapter of Cosmopolitan Club International, an organization which raises funds to fight diabetes. In time, I served the chapter as president 2006-2007 and board chair 2007-2008. A few years after, Betty joined the club and served as president 2017-2018 and now is board chair 2018-2019.

All of these church, music, and community activities plus the Topeka Civic Theatre and Academy, and the people involved made living and working in Topeka a real joy! God bless and keep you all!

Pastor Goetz

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY BREAKFAST

Bring your favorite breakfast food to share on September 9, between services. Sit down and enjoy the meal with someone new! (Don't forget to pick up your dishes from the serving table so that those cleaning up will have less to do.)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 IS ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION'S 144TH ANNIVERSARY!

SOUND WORDS ACADEMY "KICK-OFF":

will be held on **September 12**. There will be a special meal for this "kick-off" event, the menu will be smoked meat, baked beans, potato salad, dessert and watermelon, and we have a "Keg" of root beer. We are encouraging members to get tickets (so we can get an accurate count for meat). Please pick up your tickets from any office staff member during office hours or between services on August 26, September 2, and September 9. There will be NO COST for the tickets, but donations that night will be appreciated. There will also be a bouncy house for kids!

SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 2018-2019

Children

Rhythm of Faith Choir (12 September – 8 May, 5:00-5:40 p.m.; Johnson) Rhythm of Faith uses God's gift of music to confess the truth of His Word in song. Develop life-long skills in singing, ringing, and reading music. Participate as a choir in Wednesday Evening Offices and Sunday services. Learn the rich heritage of Lutheran hymnody and liturgy. Enroll after Sunday services now through 9 September or contact Bethany Johnson.

Jr. Lutherans (12 September – 8 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Sweet) This fast-paced Bible, Catechism, and Lutheran history quiz game places Lutherans aged 4 – 12 yrs. in competition with one another and teams from other congregations—with "trivia" that is hardly *trivial*. Enroll after Sunday services now through 9 September or contact Daniel Sweet.

Adults

The Entire Bible in Four Weeks (12 September – 3 October; 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Kerns) Ever get bogged down while trying to read the Bible? Sure you do! Do you have a difficult time seeing the whole picture? My guess is, you do. Would you like to have your love for the Bible kindled or rekindled? Who wouldn't? **The Entire Bible in Four Weeks** will help you understand easily and forever the way God has revealed Himself in His Word.

The History of the Reformation In 2 Weeks (17 – 24 October, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Bruss) A quick review of the chief issues, dates and players of the Wittenberg Reformation in preparation for the Feast of the Reformation.

The Resurrection of the Flesh (7 November – 12 December, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Bruss): Yup. That's how the creed actually puts it. Flesh. Raised incorruptible immortality. The Resurrection of the Flesh picks up where we left off last year in Dying the Lutheran Way and examines what the Bible says about the body's rest in the grave, the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to "raise up me and all the dead," and the everlasting life He has promised all His believers.

Everyone His Witness (2 January – 6 February; 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Kerns) Witnessing. What's it all about? The *Every One His Witness* Lutheran evangelism program puts sound doctrine into practical action for sharing the faith with people in our everyday lives. Participants learn: What is witnessing? Why do we witness? And the "how-to" of witnessing using the LASSIE approach—Listen-Ask-Seek-Share-Invite-Encourage.

The LCMS and the Other Denominations (13 February – 27 March, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Bruss): Why doesn't our church have pulpit and altar fellowship with our neighbors' churches? What are the differences? Are they that big of a deal?

Tackling Supposed Contradictions (3 April – 8 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Kerns) "How can you believe a book that's full of contradictions?" If you actively witness for Christ, it won't take long before you hear these words. Are you prepared to give an answer? This class will examine the seeming contradictions which people encounter in their Bible reading.

College Students and Young Adults

Martin Luther, *The Antinomian Theses* (12 September – 12 December, 7:45-8:40 p.m.; Bruss) Luther fought it, too—the impulse to think that all of God's Word could be summed up just in the Gospel and that the only thing worth proclaiming was just that (aka Gospel-reductionism). After all, if Christ has abolished the Law, of what use is it to believers in Christ? Should a Christian regard the Law as friend or foe? Does the Law do anything else than condemn? Answers to these questions and many more.

Adult Catechesis

Adult Catechesis (12 September – 8 May 7:45-8:40 p.m.; Kerns through December; Bruss January through May) The central teachings of the Christian faith. What does God say *about* me in His Law? What does God say *to* me in His Gospel? How am I to relate to God? And where can I find Christ and what He wants to give to me? This September through May course, with breaks scattered throughout those 8 months, weaves together the teachings of Scripture and *The Small Catechism* and shows how God encounters you in the Divine Service. For those interested in becoming members of St. John's or those seeking a refresher in the guts of Lutheran theology.

Youth Catechesis

YCat I (12 September – 8 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Kinnett) Typically for 6th graders. 1 year long.

YCat II (12 September – 8 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Bruss & Kerns) Typically for 7th and 8th graders. 2 years long.

YOUTH CATECHESIS ORIENTATION

Youth Catechesis Orientation takes place on Tuesday evening, 4 September, at 7:00 p.m. Enter by the south glass doors. This meeting is required for all youth catechumens and their parents in Youth Catechesis I and Youth Catechesis II. We'll have study packets along with all the up-front information you'll need for this year. We look forward to seeing all of you then.

HYMN OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER

"What God Ordains Is Always Good" (LSB 760)

Background & Text

The text for the hymn "What God Ordains Is Always Good" was written by Samuel Rodigast (1649-1708), a German teacher and hymn writer. He brought this text to his friend, Severus Gastorius (1646-82), who was seriously ill, as a means of comfort and strength during his affliction. Upon his recovery, Gastorius set this text to music as we now sing it today. It is an appropriate hymn especially for funerals.

Each stanza begins with the words, "What God ordains is always good," reminding us that though we have suffering, grief, pain, and sorrow in this life, God works all things together for good. He promises never to deceive us, forsake us, or bring us harm; instead, He loves us, directs us, shields us, turns our tears into gladness, and comforts us through Christ.

Stanza 5 refers to the cup that "I am drinking." This imagery reminds us of Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane and the cup of suffering that He bore on the cross. Jesus endured the true forsaking of God

in our place so that we can be comforted in knowing that God will never forsake us. Even though we have faith in Christ, we will still suffer in this life. The good news is that Jesus bears our suffering. 1 Peter 4:19 says that “those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.” We must commend ourselves to God, as stated at the end of the first and last stanzas of the hymn, “To Him, then, I will yield me,” and “So to my God I yield me.”

The Old Testament Lesson 1 Kings 17:8-16 associated with this Hymn of the Day for the 15th Sunday after Trinity teaches us about the widow’s suffering. Though she has little flour and oil left, she relies on God’s promise through Elijah that she will not run out and therefore makes the bread as he commands. The Gospel reading Matthew 6:24-31 also encourages us not to be anxious about our life but to trust in the promises of God found in His Word. God strengthens our faith through His Word and Sacraments, and we pray that we remain steadfast in the true faith to the end of our lives when we will be with Him in heaven.

Catechism: 3rd petition of the Lord’s Prayer

Thy will be done as earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God’s will done?

God’s will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God’s name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

Bethany M Johnson

NEW ADULT CATECHESIS CLASS

Begins on September 12. Interested in becoming a member of St. John’s, or know anyone who’s interested? How about a refresher on the guts of Lutheran teaching? Our 2018/2019 Adult Catechesis class is forming right now. Please contact Pr. Bruss at jbruss@stjlcms.org if you’re interested in joining. Class runs from September 12 through April, with an anticipated confirmation and first communion date in May.

2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of August 23, we had received 166 pledges totaling \$522,106.50 for our July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 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. Current budget receipts are falling short of anticipated expenditures. Every financial gift, large or small, helps St. John’s carry out its mission.

If you do not pledge and you know your giving pattern is going to be modified during this time frame—it would be very beneficial to the Stewardship Board for budgeting purposes—if you make Yvonne Berry aware of the modification. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY – NATIONAL NIGHT OUT RECAP

The Lord blessed us with great weather for the event. We had nearly 300 registered attendees, many from the immediate neighborhood. For the 5th year in a row, we received a generous 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!

We are reaching out to the guests that visited the Block Party by inviting them to the kick-off event for Sound Words Academy as well as weekly SWA activities. We plan to invite them to other church activities throughout the year. If you see a new face in the crowd, please help us give them a warm welcome.

END-OF-THE YEAR SUMMARY OF YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Another great year has come to an end for the St. John's Youth Group as we close out the summer with a bang at Oceans of Fun **AND** Worlds of Fun this August/September.

Here is a recap of all the fun we had during the 2017-18 school year:

SEPTEMBER 30—goony golf and go-karts at Topeka Sports Center

OCTOBER 28—Gary's Berries (corn maze and pumpkin patch)

NOVEMBER—purchasing Christmas gifts for our adopted families from The Lighthouse

DECEMBER 3—Hunchback of Notre Dame (dinner theatre) at Topeka Civic Theatre

DECEMBER 20—Christmas party with our adopted families (after the St. John's Christmas program)

JANUARY 14—youth served & cleaned up the potluck congregational breakfast

FEBRUARY 2—catechesis retreat with Pastors and staff

FEBRUARY 10—50's sock-hop in the Courtyard Cafe

FEBRUARY 24—skiing at Snowcreek Resort in Weston, MO

MARCH 18—Christ-n-Bowl

APRIL 28—SkyZone Indoor Trampoline Park (new one in Topeka)—we had 30 people attend this!!

MAY 6—confirmation for six 8th graders

JUNE 9—movie in Lawrence and assembling goodie bags for golf

JUNE 16—youth helped serve and clean up at the Lange-Straeuli wedding at St. John's

JULY 24 - 27—8 youth attended the Higher Things conference held at KU in Lawrence, KS

AUGUST 4—pastors, youth and parents helped Jim Simpson with the annual golf scramble for our one major fundraiser

AUGUST 18—Oceans of Fun waterpark in Kansas City!

Coming Soon: **WORLDS OF FUN on Saturday, September 15**

We welcomed 12 new sixth graders to our youth group last fall: William Baumann, Edd Fay, Patrick Goetz, Bennett Hallauer, Jacob Lehmann, Caden Magee, Justin Phillips, Brooke Polter, Bebe Reilly, Tyler Sivertson, Aidan Tuck and Zackary Weir—Welcome!

Six 8th graders were confirmed at St. John's on May 6th: Colton Cattoor, Gracelyn Hallauer, Gabriel Kinnett, Alex Lehmann, Finn Reilly and Trustin Schafer—Congratulations and God's Blessings.

Two seniors graduated (and are rooming together at K-State this Fall!): Greyson Kerns and Garrett Polter

Eight youth attended Higher Things at KU in Lawrence, KS this past July: Colton Cattoor, Gracelyn Hallauer, Lorelei Humphrey, Mollie Kerns, Alex Lehmann, Luke Riley, Trustin Schafer and Emmalie Scott. Chaperones were: Joshua & Ashley Brandmahl, Pastor Bruss, Pastor Kerns and Blythe Landon

with music provided by our very own Bethany Johnson! (And since it was so close to home this year, we also had several St. John's members pop in to check out the sessions/food/worship).

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 voter's assembly for 2018. We hope that you will find this information useful.

Budget through July 31	\$439,870.69
Budget Receipts through July 31	\$392,988.36
Over (Under) Budget YTD	(\$46,882.33)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

Wednesday, September 12, at 10:00 is the first Bible study session for the fall semester. Notice the date and time change from previous schedule. For the first six weeks we will be studying the devotional book "I Have Set My King on Zion," a study of six Psalms which magnify the Messiah who was to come. The next six weeks we will be learning about our adversary, the devil. Come and join us and bring a friend!

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

School Kits Only

LWML is preparing School Kits for August and September. Items needed are displayed on the table beneath the LWML bulletin board, with a basket beneath the table for collection.

Items needed at this time:

- 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper 8 ½" x 11"; no loose-leaf paper
- 30 cm ruler or a ruler with cm on one side and inches on the other
- Pencil sharpener
- Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons
- Eraser approximately 2 ½" long

Thank you in advance for your donations. Again, monetary gifts will be accepted.

Geri Tate 272-0886; Marcia Wade 286-1119; Carol Ravins 266-7088

2018 FLOWER CALENDAR

The following services are available this year if you would like to provide flowers for any of them: October 28; November 11 & 18; December 2 & 30.

DOORSTEP NEWS

Doorstep has had a busy summer. They have been busy helping with food and clothing, but also with the monetary services they offer. From rent and utilities, where they get more calls than they have money to help, to dental, prescriptions, gas vouchers and local bus tickets. They are fortunate to receive several grants which make providing these funds possible. Particularly, United Way of Greater Topeka Basic Needs, City of Topeka and Shawnee County Social Services. But still, the need exceeds the ability to

accommodate those requests. This is why they continue to need the support of their member congregations.

DOORSTEP'S NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR WALK/5K RUN!

Saturday, October 6 is the date for Doorstep's inaugural event! **They are planning on this becoming their second annual fundraiser each year!**

You can sign up to participate yourself for \$30 including a t-shirt (deadline September 10 to order a shirt) or sponsor a walker/runner! Those getting sponsors will get a free t-shirt with pledges of \$100 or more. All proceeds will benefit Doorstep, Inc.

It will start/end from shelter houses 1 & 2 at Lake Shawnee. The Walk/Run will start at 9:30 a.m. with celebrity starter, Chris Fisher from WIBW-TV 13. The Topeka High School Drum Line will get everyone pumped up and ready to go! After the walk/run return to the shelter houses for a continental breakfast of fruit, granola bars, bagels, juice and water.

Watch for a sign-up table and more information, and plan to join us for our first Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Run on October 6!

TLS NEWS

TLS Grandparents Day will be held Friday, September 7 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 29 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at the 701 SW Roosevelt campus. There will be games, face painting, a dunk tank, cake walk, concessions, and lots more! We hope you can join us!

Save the Date! Friday, October 5 is Family Night/Movie Night at TLS! More details will be announced at a later date.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Tyler Banion who were married on August 4 at Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka. Mrs. Banion (formerly Miss Claire Albrecht) begins her second year here at TLS teaching Grades 4/5 combined class. Mr. Banion is from El Dorado and currently works for the Office of the State Bank Commissioner. We pray for God's richest blessings on their new life together!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

We recently discovered an exciting new Sunday School curriculum for grades 1 through 8 entitled "The Acceptable Year of the Lord," which follows the one-year lectionary. This means that the children will be studying the same Scripture lessons that the pastors will use for the texts of their sermons. This reinforces the Gospel lesson and encourages the children to listen more carefully to the sermon.

September 2:	<u>The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity</u>	The Ten Lepers-Luke 17: 11-19
September 9:	<u>The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity</u>	God and Mammon-Matthew 6: 24-34
September 16:	<u>The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity</u>	Jesus Raises the Widow's Son-Luke 7:11-17
September 23:	<u>The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity</u>	Jesus Heals on the Sabbath at a Pharisee's House - Luke 14:1-11
September 30:	<u>The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity.</u>	David's Son and David's Lord – Matthew 22:34-46

On August 19, we celebrated Promotion Sunday. Sunday School Teachers and the Superintendent were installed. This years Sunday School staff includes-

Preschool Teachers: *Linda Pierce and Allison Lehmann*
 Kindergarten Teachers: *Sara Waltman and Josie Landry*
 1st/2nd Grade Teachers: *Megan Hossain and Kelly Winright*
 3rd-5th Grade Teachers: *Sherry Fergel and Daniel Sweet*
 Superintendent: *Andrea Kosmicki*



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*)