

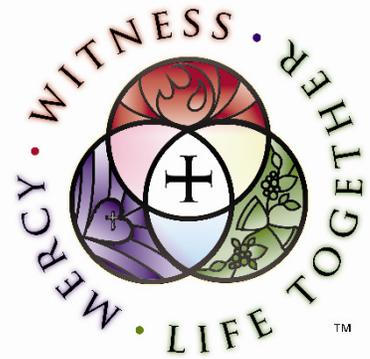
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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News & Notes

May 10, 2020

During these unusual days of pandemic, we will not be preparing the regular church bulletin, but will instead make this *'News & Notes'* page available weekly on the website. In addition, paper copies of this page will be available on Tuesdays outside the church office for anyone coming in to drop off an offering.



CHRISTIANITY'S FIRST MARTYR - STEPHEN

In our first reading today, we hear of one of Christ's earliest and most powerful servants, St. Stephen. He is remembered as the proto-martyr (or first martyr) of Christianity. According to the *Acts of the Apostles* he was a deacon in the early church who aroused the anger of members of various synagogues by his teachings. Accused of blasphemy at his trial, he made a speech denouncing the Jewish authorities who were sitting in judgment on him and was then stoned to death. His martyrdom was witnessed by Saul of Tarsus, a Pharisee who would later become a follower of Jesus and known as Paul the Apostle.

Thus Stephen was invested with the crown of martyrdom, appropriately, because his very name means "crown." In traditional Christian iconography, Stephen is depicted with three stones and the palm frond, a symbol of the martyr's victory in death.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! Today we give thanks to God for Christian mothers. Much of what they do for us would be considered 'mundane,' yet it is in these very ways that mother's surrounded us with love and impart the love of God. For a full 'Mother's Day' devotion, please see the last page of this edition of "News & Notes."

CONGREGATIONAL LETTER – If you haven't received it yet, you should be receiving by mail a letter with updates about our plans for resuming public services, along with other information. Please be sure to read it carefully!



CONFIRMATION 2020 – Like everything these days, our plans for the Confirmation of our 2020 catechumens have been altered. Normally we would have the Rite of Confirmation on the 3rd Sunday of May, but because of uncertainty about when we'll get back to worship, and to allow enough time for preparation, **the date for Confirmation has been moved back three weeks to Sunday, June 7th.**



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT UPDATE

The St. John “Maskateers” have been hard at work, and their project of sewing protective face masks for the community, to be distributed by the Henry County Health Department, is nearly complete. They will have sewn some 300 of these masks. What a joy it is to be a blessing to the community in this way.



Now the “Maskateers” are turning their attention to Phase 2 of this project, sewing masks for our own congregation, so that when we resume public services, everyone will have access to a mask. Thanks again to this group of ladies for their dedication and service.

2019 CHURCH'S ANNUAL REPORT: The 2019 Annual Report is now available. Thank you for your patience. Copies can be picked up from the table outside the office or on the desk in the narthex. There will be more printed and available next Tuesday. Thanks to everyone for your information submitted to be included in this report.

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS

- Booklets for the second quarter (April-June) are available for you to pick up outside the church office.
- OR, on Facebook, search ‘Portals of Prayer’ and head to their page for each day’s devotion.
- For many fantastic materials that *Concordia Publishing House* is making freely available during this time, go to **cph.org** and click the purple **“For Home, Browse Resources”** link. You will find links for many resources that are normally available by subscription only:
 - ‘**My Devotions**’ devotions for teens
 - ‘**Happy Times**’ magazine for children, the April/May issue
 - ‘**Family Time**’ devotions for families with children
 - ‘**Today’s Light**’ (April issue) for a more in-depth consideration of daily Scripture readings
 - ‘**Lutheran Life**’ online flip book (Spring issue) with many wonderful, articles for spiritual growth
 - ‘**Lutheran Witness**’ (special issue) with exceptional articles for expanding your mind
 - ‘**CPH Music**’ links on either Spotify or Amazon Music

ONLINE SERVICES FROM ST. JOHN

- Online services will be made available on **Sundays by 9:00 a.m.**
- Be sure to access the service PDF files so that you can follow along with each service
- Links for all these worship resources will be made available on **sjl.org** and on our Facebook page.



MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Lester Rabe*
- ❖ *Melba Elling, and Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs and Arlene Gerken*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, at Fulton Manor – Wauseon
- ❖ *Donald Badenhop*, now residing at Vancrest Assisted Living – Holgate
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran’s Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy, Nathan Nemoyer, Jared Dishop*
- ❖ *Dale VonDeylen*, brother of Deb Durham and Dave VonDeylen, who is currently undergoing cancer treatments

CONGRATUALIONS AND BEST WISHES! On Sat., May 2, 2020, *Brandon Jackman* and *Kayla Damman* were united in marriage at St. John in a private family ceremony. This was 72 years to the day that Kayla’s grandparents, Victor & Marie Damman were married also. Brandon and Kayla had to adjust many of their wedding plans, but not even the pandemic could stop them from becoming husband and wife. May God bless Mr. & Mrs. Jackman in their life together!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 05/03/20	\$8,620.00	\$30.00	\$150.00

OFFERINGS DURING THIS TIME – The gifts of God’s people are essential to the continuation of ministry. There are three ways we suggest giving your gifts...

- Use our new ‘Give Now’ online giving page – a link is on our website
- Mail your offerings to the church
- Drop off your offerings on Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon, outside the church office

More detailed information is available on the “Sustaining Ministry” document online.

GETTING BACK TO WORSHIP – At the last meeting of the Church Council and Elders it was decided that we would target the first week of June to resume public worship services as follows:

- **Thursday, June 4th at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday, June 7th at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.**

By having three identical services each week, we hope to keep our numbers down at any one service, to better conform to government guidelines for group gatherings. In the letter to the congregation, you can read about many protocols we are putting in place to help mitigate the spread of viruses.

In addition, we will continue to make service recordings available on Sunday mornings by 9:00 a.m. We will record the Thursday evening service for that purpose.

Also, we are purchasing an FM transmitter so that we can broadcast services to the parking lot. This will permit people at higher risk, as well as those who are initially uncomfortable with public gatherings, to come to the church and listen to the service on their car the radios. If we need to restrict the number of people gathered for worship, the overflow crowd could listen this way as well.





"Mothers Day"

A Lutheran Hour Ministries Devotion

*Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.
The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her,
so that he shall have no need of spoil. Proverbs 31:10-11*

Amazingly, this Mother's Day devotion is being written at my mother's kitchen table. She is sitting opposite me doing her daily crossword puzzle. Already today, she has cleaned the house, gone shopping, prepared food for her grandson's confirmation, and is baking goodies for church Bible class. Sitting next to mom is my wife Pam, who has been equally busy and had the added burden of dealing with me. Both are exceptional Christian women, wives, and mothers, and are far more valuable than rubies. They are more than worth their weight in gold.

That's an opinion that was shared by the Massachusetts firm, Salary.com. This company, which calculates what a person should be paid, has said that if mothers were reimbursed for their work they would earn around \$140,000 a year. Sound like a lot? Not for a person who puts in a 92 hour week by being a housekeeper, day-care provider, teacher, cook, computer operator, launderer, janitor, domicile engineer, chauffeur, CEO, and psychologist. If you take all the jobs performed by a traditional mom, and paid her accordingly, she would bring in \$138,095 a year.

And she would be worth every penny.

But I'm not just talking about "moms" here. I'm talking about Christian moms.

- A Christian mom may never have given biological birth, but she still reflects the love she has been given by Jesus to the children of those who have.
- A Christian mother may never be featured in the pages of People magazine, but she knows that she is high on the list of Jesus' most beautiful people according to the wee ones entrusted to her care.
- A Christian mother may not love more, but she loves longer, knowing that the Savior's story she shares speaks of eternity to generations yet unborn.
- A Christian mother knows she is a saved sinner entrusted with the upbringing of sinners who are smaller. She also knows that the word "saved" makes all the difference in her conduct of that trust.

This is why on this Mother's Day, Christian children, even those who are 58-years-old, give thanks to the Lord for having let us meet Christian mothers and wives.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, even as You bestowed a great honor upon Mary, Your mother, You have given a great trust to Christian mothers. May they be given every gift they need to be Your representatives in their homes. In Your name, Amen.

Happy
Mother's
Day