



St. John's Lutheran Church

A Member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
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"Not So Smart"

*But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.
1 Corinthians 1:27*

Every age has its experts.

- * It's been almost 200 years since an American expert declared the building of railroads would necessitate the construction of mental institutions. In his opinion, people would be driven mad with terror at the sight of trains chugging across the land.
- * Every age has its experts. In 1881, when the New York YWCA said they would offer typing lessons for women, some experts declared the delicate female constitution would collapse under the pressure.
- * Every age has its experts. Sir William Preece was one of Britain's most noted scientists. Having examined the telephone, he commented, "England has plenty of small boys to run messages."
- * Every age has its experts. Phil Wrigley, owner of the Chicago Cubs, was an acknowledged expert on baseball. But in 1935, he remarked, "Night baseball is just a fad, a passing fancy."
- * Every age has its experts. Thomas Edison was an expert in many areas, but in 1922 he prophesied, "The radio craze will die out in time."

You don't have to be an expert on anything to realize that human predictions, even when made by a recognized "authority," do not always come true.

What a contrast that is to the Word of God.

Using many authors over 1,600 years of history, the Lord gave His people a great many promises, predictions and prophesies. Understand, the Lord didn't always use those whom the world considered to be brilliant. He didn't.

Even so, the promises made by the Lord's spokesmen were reliable and came to pass as He had said they would. If they said the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem, He was. If the promise was Jesus would die on a cross, He did. If they were moved to predict Jesus would rise on the third day, it was a given.

And why is this important?

It is important because the Bible's historical verifiability makes it unique among the religions of the world. It is important because it shows that the Lord's Word can be trusted. It is important because God's experts point unerringly, unquestioningly, to Jesus as being the Savior of the world.

This means the crucified and risen Christ is our Savior.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, I give thanks Your truth *is* truth. May I always rejoice that the promised Savior is also my Savior. For His sacrifice and glorious resurrection, may I always give thanks. In His Name. Amen.

*Daily Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries by Rev. Ken Klaus, March 18, 2012
Used by permission; all rights reserved by the Int'l LLL (LHM).*

From Pastor's Study

Circuit Visitors' Conference

I will be attending the Circuit Visitors Conference on Monday-Tuesday, August 31-September 1 at the MN North District Office.

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Memorial Service (Thursday)

The memorial service for Lucille Ekstrand is this coming Thursday at 1:00 pm in the chapel at the Ecumen campus in North Branch where Lucille lived since moving from Rush City. At the time of her death on August 19, she was the oldest member of St. John's at 100 years.

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Mini-Vacation (August 28-31)

Judy and I will be on a mini-vacation Friday -Monday of this coming week. Rev. Don Polege will be here next Sunday and "on call" if pastoral services are needed. Please work through Karen in the church office, (320) 358-3623, or at her home, (651) 674-8604, to contact Pastor Polege.

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Youth / Adult Confirmation

All youth intending to participate in the confirmation program this fall are asked to contact Pastor Beck as soon as possible to make arrangements for classes. Normally the youth program is for 7th & 8th grade students. **An Orientation Meeting for parents of students is planned for Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m.**

Any adults interested in **Adult Discipleship Class** leading to confirmation (or a refresher class for present members) are asked to contact Pastor Beck to make arrangements for a class. Scheduling can be flexible.

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What's missing?

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So, come on back!

"Back-to-Church Sunday" -- September 13

Minnesota State Fair, Labor Day, football games, first day back to school – all are indicators that summer is ending and fall has arrived. Schedules change.



If you have been gone for a while (whether a week, a month, a year, a decade, or longer) it's time to come back because you are a part of the body of Christ. The whole body hurts when you are not an active part. **"Back-to-Church Sunday"** is September 13. It's a Bible Hour (for ages 3 to 99+) with Sunday School, Youth & Adult Bible Classes.

Families with Sunday School age children (pre-school-6th grade) are asked to enroll their children by contacting Karen Peterson in the church office as soon as possible so that materials and staff can be ready for "Back to Church" Sunday". If you have friends or neighbors with children who are not active in a Christian church, please invite them come with their children to St. Johns.

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A Man Named Martin – begins September 13th

Scarce are the lives whose course of events alter world history; fewer still are those whose influence persists centuries later. Martin Luther is one such life. In *A Man Named Martin*, a new Bible study from Lutheran Hour Ministries, you will learn how this monk's crisis of faith and search for spiritual truth helped ignite the Lutheran Reformation. And the history of Christianity was forever changed.

Join the Sunday morning Bible Class starting September 13 and meet the German monk who sparked the Reformation.

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District Pastors Conference

The MN North District Pastors Conference is Sunday evening through Tuesday afternoon, September 20-22 at Lutheran Island Camp. Our Rum River Circuit is the host circuit. The theme is "Speaking God's Word -- In the Public Square and In the Legislative Process." Presenters will give attention to a number of current issues which the church must address.

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BeWellServeWell Rewards

As Judy and I participate in this healthy lifestyle program offered through Concordia Plan Services, St. John's congregation will again receive the annual maximum of \$500 for the year (it is paid quarterly through the year).

Rum River Circuit Forum

In preparing for the 2016 LCMS Synod Convention, July 9-14, 2016, the Rum River Circuit Forum will meet on Sunday, September 27 at Zion Lutheran Church at Crown at 3:00 PM. The Church Council appointed Kevin Garey as Lay Representative to attend the Forum with Pastor Beck.

The agenda includes:

- **Election of Circuit delegates and alternates** (two pastors and two lay persons from four different congregations of the circuit) to the 2016 LCMS Synod Convention in Milwaukee. Each congregation can nominate one lay person for the ballot and name must be submitted to the Circuit Visitor prior to the day of the Circuit Forum. All the pastors in the circuit (other than advisory) are eligible to be elected. The Church Council nominated Mr. Al Keske from Faith Community Lutheran Church in Zimmerman.
- **Overtures to the Convention** – The Circuit Forum can submit overtures for consideration. A sample of the format is available on synod's website.
- **Other items** can be added to the agenda.

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Ymt: Youth Ministry Training

Friday-Saturday,
October 2 & 3, 2015
At Lutheran Island
Camp in Henning, MN



All professional and lay leaders are encouraged to attend this two day learning, networking and encouraging event designed for all those who have a passion to serve the young people of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in the Minnesota North District.

The keynote speaker will be Craig McCourt, a 25-year youth ministry veteran and founder of **GodPonders** ministry. He will focus on the use of media in youth ministry and discuss ways that we can connect youth to our congregations, especially for those who do not have youth ministers on staff. You can learn more about Craig at <http://godponders.org>.

A majority of the cost for this event is being underwritten by the Minnesota North District Parish Life and Nurture Committee and Lutheran Island Camp. The suggested donation is \$25 per person to offset the costs.

To register, please complete the Registration Form available in the District Intercom/E-News Newsletter: (<http://mnndistrict.webplus.net/August 2015 Intercom E-News.pdf>) or contact the District Office at (218) 829-1781.

See Pastor Beck for more information.

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Engaging Your Community Event

This year, the MN North District is hosting three “Engaging Your Community” events. Our region’s event is **Saturday, September 26, 8 am-3 pm at Zion Lutheran Church in Mora**. Registration by September 18 is necessary because individualized demographic materials on each community are printed in advance.

This workshop is designed to assist congregations in rural and small towns to intensify their outreach into the community. A couple years ago Kevin Garey and I attended the first of these events at St. Johns in Aitkin. It is a worthwhile workshop but it takes a team of members (ideally to work together for good things to happen). Would you like to be a part of the team? Let me know.

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National Disaster Response Conference

As members of our District’s Crisis Team and Disaster Response/LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team), Rev. Steve Breitbarth and Pastor Beck will be attending this LCMS conference, [National Disaster Response Conference](#), “*Deliver Us from Evil: God at Work in Disaster*,” on Oct. 6-9 at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

The free, annual conference is open to LCMS pastors, seminarians, deaconesses, district disaster-response coordinators and anyone who is interested in disaster response.

The conference schedule includes case studies from recent disasters in Pilger, Neb.; Washington, Ill.; Delmont, S.D.; and Colorado, as well as presentations from those who have responded to disasters.

Among presenters are LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, who will address “Löhe on Mercy,” and Dr. Beverly Yahnke, executive director for Christian Counsel with [DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel](#), whose banquet presentation, “London Bridge is Falling Down: Child-Size Trauma,” will focus on caring for children.

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Missionary Presentation – October 28

Rev. Daniel and Joan Jastram will be at St. Johns on Wednesday, October 28 at 7:00 PM for a Jastram-Asia LCMS Mission Advancement Presentation. Rev. Dr. Jastram formerly served Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Forest Lake, MN. He and Joan are now preparing for missionary service in Tokyo, Japan, where he will serve as a Theological Education Facilitator overseeing five seminaries in Northern Asia.

In their presentation you will learn how we can be TIM partners -**Together In Mission** – and support our missionaries. Check out their blog site for the most current news: <http://jastrams.me/>

A light supper will precede the program. Watch for more information in next month’s newsletter

Bible Reading Challenge For 2015

Daily Bible Reading Plan for September



Note: Sat-Sun readings are combined

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105*

day	chapter	Sept.	day	chapter
1	1 Cor 1-2	<i>Read</i> 1 & 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians	16	11-13
2	3-4		17	Gal 1
3	5-6		18	2
4	7		19/20	3
5/6	8-9		21	4
7	10-11		22	5
8	12-14		23	6
9	15-16		24	Eph 1
10	2 Cor 1-2		25	2
11	3-4		26/27	3
12/13	5-7		28	4
14	8-9		29	5
15	10		30	6

Membership Changes & Pastoral Acts



We welcome to God's family at St. Johns
Conner David Bakken, son of Steven &
Laura Bakken. Conner was baptized on
August 15. He is the grandson of Jeff &
Jill Erickson.

Releases of Membership: **Gary & Debra Guse**

Reaffirmations of Faith: **Les & Roxanne Orvis**
Bob & Lynette Downing
Katie Downing

Death/memorial service: **Lucille Ekstrand**

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Our Christian Sympathy

... is extended to the family of **Lucille Ekstrand**. Lucille died on August 19
Her memorial service will be held at
Ecumen of North Branch on Thursday,
September 3 at 1:00 pm.

May the Lord bring His comfort in Christ
to all who grieve.



Attention: Blood Donors



The American Red Cross Blood Drive is
Monday, September 14 from 1:00 – 7:00
p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 1000 Jay
Avenue, Rush City. Your donation of
blood can be the gift of life for other
people. Please plan to donate if you can!

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Words Of Appreciation are expressed to:

- ... those who serve weekly in worship: pastor, organist,
pianist, lay readers, ushers, greeters, PA technicians,
elders, acolytes and altar guild.
- ... those who counted and posted the offerings.
- ... those who brought refreshments on Sunday mornings in
August.
- ... those who mowed the church lawn in August.
- ... to all of those who helped with the Salad Luncheon.
- ... those who helped with prison ministry and the Golden
Living Center services in August.
- ... East Central Sanitation who provides free refuse and
recycling service for SJLC.
- ... those who helped to assemble this newsletter.
- ... our gracious God who makes all these things possible
through the priceless gift of His Son, our Savior, Jesus
Christ.

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September Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4 Susan Scheff
- 7 Heidi Blatz
- 8 Samantha Willert
- 10 Judy Beck, Diane Friday
- 12 David Haley
- 13 Debbie Peterson
- 16 Jessica Brown
- 17 Wendy Whittaker, Alexis Wildhirt, Michael Willert,
Brandon & Jessica Brown, Wendell M. & Nickole
Swanson
- 18 Marilyn Rosty
- 20 Bill Aagaard
- 23 Carol Werlein
- 24 Scott & Mindy Milliman
- 25 Tessa Swanson
- 26 Megan Antrobus, Donna Peterson
- 27 Brandon Brown, Bill & Michelle Volk
- 28 Arlen & Karen Peterson
- 30 Todd Johnston, Brent & Tricia Williams



Have a happy & blessed day!

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The Lutheran Hour

Sundays at 6:05 a.m.
on WCCO 830 AM)



September 6

"God's Grand Opening"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God opens hearts to new life and new opportunities, through faith in Christ. (Mark 7:31-37)

September 13

"There is Something More"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God has something more in store for all who put their faith in Him. (Isaiah 50:4-10)

September 20

"Tradition, Tradition, Tradition"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

What role do traditions play in our relationships to God and each other? (Mark 7:1-13)

September 27

"Free, Indeed"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

When our sins and guilt stick to us like glue, Jesus makes us unstuck. (John 8:34-36)



Bible App – free!!



A free audio Bible App is available from
"Faith Comes By Hearing" at
www.Bible.is

There is also a free Bible App for those
with hearing impairments:
www.Bible.is/Deaf.



Thank You

The annual Salad Luncheon was held on Friday, August 14. Thank you to all who donated food or money and thank you to all who attended.



Willing Workers Needed Mow Lawn

The schedule is open for the rest of the season for mowing the church grounds. Please sign up on the sheet on the back bulletin board. The church lawn mower is available. Please talk to the head trustee, Mike Willert if you have any questions.



Time Of Grace – New Network And Time

Time of Grace is now airing each week on Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), the world's largest religious television network, each Thursday at 3:30 P.M. (central time). Can't watch at 3:30? Set your DVR and enjoy a Bible lesson with Pastor Mark Jeske anytime.



Points to Ponder

"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."
– C.S. Lewis

"When the preferences of the church members are greater than their passion for the Gospel, the church is dying."
-- Thom Rainer

"First, we live because of Christ. Second, Christ died for us. Either of these would be enough by itself to put us in his debt, but taken together our liability is overwhelming."
-- Chrysostom

A Measure of our Discipleship Together in Christ

<i>Week of</i>	<i>Worship Attendance</i>	<i>Communed</i>	<i>Offering</i>	<i>Sunday Bible Class</i>	<i>Monday Bible Class Longer Look</i>
7-26-2015	50	-----	\$1,231.00	No class	No class
8-2-2014	46	40	\$1,641.00	No class	3
8-9-2015	44	-----	\$1,403.00	10	3
8-16-2015	47	43	\$2,081.25	9	4
8-23-2015	42		\$1,047.56	No class	4

A question for each of us:

Is my example of discipleship strengthening and encouraging others in our life together in Christ?

10 Things We Should Never Tell a Preacher

When I honor the Lord's shepherd, I honor the Lord Jesus Christ. He takes personally my treatment of His servant. That should put the fear of the Lord into us. And keep it there.

Here are ten in no particular order....

1. We should not tell the preacher what we think of his hot wife.

This is one not only to keep to oneself, but to ask the Lord to remove it from one's mind altogether. The prayer "let the...meditations of my heart be acceptable to Thee, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer" should cover it.

2. We should not tell the preacher we think he is married to a meddling wife.

Only the rarest of pastors could receive such information. If it happens to be true—pray that it isn't—let the elected leadership of the church deal with it, and not you.

3. We should not tell the preacher that when he first came, we hated his guts.

I received such a note once. A young couple whom I admired a great deal, wrote me after I'd been their pastor a couple of years. It was an encouraging note meant to affirm me during a difficult time, but one line in particular will stay with me forever: *"For your first year here, we hated you. You were taking our beloved pastor's place,"* referring to the preacher before me. That was a stunner. None of the positive things they said compensated for that one verbal blow.

I did not need to know this. They should have kept it between themselves and the Lord.

4. We should not tell the preacher a bit of gossip we heard that "he just ought to know."

Let it stop here, now, with you.

5. We should not tell the preacher, "I voted against you when you first came."

This is more information than he needs to know.

6. Do not tell the pastor, "I think I'm falling in love with you."

That, you may be horrified to know, has been done. It is never ever done, however, to good effect. If the pastor is mature, thereafter he holds you at arm's length (as he should!). If he is immature, nothing but trouble lies ahead.

Someone insists, "But he is my shepherd, and he can help me with this." I respond: He is human and this is information he does not need. Protect him from your foolishness. If you must tell someone, seek out a godly grandmother in the church who will counsel and pray and talk straight to you.

7. Do not tell the preacher, "I like you, but I prefer the preaching of Pastor Stillwater." (or a certain television preacher)

Why would you say such a hurtful thing? Do not do it.

8. You should not tell the pastor, "I think you have put on weight."

Even if he has, it's no one's business but his own.

You respond, "Oh, but he and I are great friends, and friends talk this way to each other." Maybe so. But you have just pushed the boundary on friendship, straining the relationship. You do not want to do that.

9. Do not tell the pastor "what people are saying about you."

Innuendo—good or bad—is unsettling to anyone. The pastor is mature enough to know people are talking. They always talk. But you should be mature enough to keep the rumors to yourself.

Someone says, "But he needs someone to be his eyes and ears in the congregation." Perhaps he does; perhaps not. But unless asked, you should never go to him with such a report.

10. Personally, I don't think you should even tell the pastor, "I'm praying for you."

Just do it. If you believe strongly in the power of prayer and are praying regularly, that is sufficient. He will receive the benefit of your prayers, and that is what you want in the first place. I am of the opinion that some people spend more time telling others they pray for them than doing it. Do not be such a person.

Pray for your pastor. Love your pastor. Protect your pastor as much as you can. Respect your pastor as the shepherd sent by the Lord.

No one is suggesting you worship a preacher. But I keep remembering something the Lord Jesus said as He sent the disciples on a preaching mission.

"He who hears you, hears Me. He who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me" (Luke 10:16).

When I honor the Lord's shepherd, I honor the Lord Jesus Christ. He takes personally my treatment of His servant. That should put the fear of the Lord into us. And keep it there.

Addendum—

A friend says "A pastor should never tell his congregation, 'If you do not believe (a certain translation of Scripture), you are not a Christian.'" I completely agree.

Pastors should be extremely careful on variations of that sentence. "If you are not baptized, you are not a Christian." "If you are not a member of our denomination, you are not a Christian." "If you are not on the right side of this or that issue, you are not a Christian."

"God knows those who are His." That's from 2 Timothy 2:19, and what it implies is equally true: You and I do not. So, we should quit trying to do God's work for Him. Thank you.

Author: Joe McKeever Date Published: 8/27/2015