THE JOTTINGS



The Newsletter of Jehovah Lutheran Church
1566 Thomas Ave, Saint Paul MN 55104 • 651-644-1421 • www.jehovahlutheran.org

A Community of Joy . . . Celebrating, Learning & Sharing the Love of God in Christ Jesus

November 2023

Jehovah Lutheran Church

Traditional liturgy and hymns of the faith
Gospel-centered preaching
Weekly celebration of
Holy Communion



SUNDAYS

Worship

9:30am

Growing in Faith
Sunday School
Following Divine Service

Living in Faith
Bible Study 11:00am

Join us for worship
Stay Connected
and Informed
on our Church Website:
www.jehovahlutheran.org



One Lord, one faith, one baptism *Ephesians 4:*5

Where is Your Heart?

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV).

"You shall have no other gods."
What this means is: You shall have Me alone as your God. What is the meaning of this, and how is it to be understood? What does it mean to have a god? or, what is God?

Answer: A god means that from which we are to expect all good and to which we are to take refuge in all distress. So that to have a God is nothing else than to trusting and believing Him with the heart. I have often said that the confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol. If your faith and trust be right, then your God is also true. On the other hand, if your trust is false and wrong, then you have not the true God; for these two belong together, faith and God. Now, I say that whatever you set your heart on and put your trust in is truly your god." (Luther's Large Catechism, I:1-3)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What is your heart set on? Where is your treasure?

Whatever we set our heart on, whatever we place our trust in is our god. Jesus says that wherever our treasure is, there out heart is also.

In the fall of each year, as we approach both Thanksgiving Day and the turning over of a new Church year with the approach of Advent, we pause and focus on the biblical concept of stewardship. This word "stewardship" is part of what it means to be Christians. It means that we believe that we are not the ultimate owners of ourselves, our bodies, our property, or our finances. As Christians, we believe that God is our Creator as well as our Redeemer and the Lord of the Church.

We believe that "God has made me and all creatures." We believe that God has created everything that we have in our physical bodies, and that He is the ultimate provider of everything that we need to take care of our bodies, things such, "clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all I have." We also believe that it is God who defends us from harm and protects us from evil. And, we believe that God "does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness" in us. Finally, we believe that because of this it is our "duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him." (Luther's Small Catechism, II:1)

As Christians then, we are stewards. We are people who realize everything we have is a gift from God and that it all still ultimately belongs to Him. We are just God's stewards, we are the people that He has put in temporal charge of all He has made, because it belongs to Him. Our health, our resources, our money all belong to God, and He asks us to use them well as responsible stewards for His glory.

This isn't true only about creation though. It's also true about the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. God has given us the Gospel, and He asks us to use it well through sharing it with others. We are stewards of the Good News.

The same is also true about God the Holy Spirit's gift to us of the Church. The Holy Spirit has called and gathered us into the Church, and He also asks us to care for it, to provide for it, and to bring others into it. We are stewards of God's creation. We are stewards of the Gospel. We are stewards of the Church.

So in this context of stewardship, the questions are posed to us again:

What is your heart set on? Where is your treasure? Is it your God?

As we celebrate 100 years as a congregation, we are experiencing success in outreach! We have deepening and missional relationships with Mekane Yesus Fellowship, our other circuit congregations, and the three LCMS schools on our circuit. We continue to welcome new members join our congregation. We are a congregation that is alive! We are active! God is using us as His stewards to proclaim the Gospel to and serve our neighbors! continued...

And God is also calling us to use our time, our talents, and our financial resources to make sure that the Gospel continues to be proclaimed here for many generations to come. As we continue to celebrate our centennial, we will reflect on what it means to be God's stewards, in our sermons and in Living by Faith. An outline of the themes of these messages and studies may be found below.

As we hear about what it means to be God's stewards, we also join together in filling out our promise cards. For those who may not know what they are, a promise card is a card with a promise of what you intend to give to God's work here at Jehovah Lutheran in the next calendar year. The promises we make on these cards are not promises to the pastor, nor to the church council, nor even to the congregation.

These promises are promises to the Lord. They are promises that flow from our stewardship of His gifts to us. They are promises that provide for the work of His Church. They are promises to continue to provide for the proclamation of the Gospel at Jehovah Lutheran. They are promises that enable us to continue outreach in the Midway neighborhood.

Please fill out your promise card with your offering intention for the coming calendar year and return it to church by December 3, the First Sunday in Advent. As we continue to celebrate our 100th anniversary together, we need everyone participating in making stewardship promises. These promises show where our hearts are. They show what we have set our hearts on. These promises show who our God is.

Walking together with you, Pastor Joshua Miller Join us for...

STEWARDS

Stewardship Sermon Series:

Stewards are Washed

All Saints: Nov. 5

Sermon Text: Revelation 7:9-17

Stewards are Watching

24th Sun. after Pentecost: Nov. 12 Sermon Text: Matthew 25:1-13 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Stewards are Wakened

25th Sun. after Pentecost: Nov. 19 Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 and Mathew 25:14-30

Stewards are Waiting

Last Sunday of the Church Year/Christ the King: Nov. 26
Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 and Matthew 25:31-46

Bible Class Series: Stewards Sticking it to Satan

Stewards of Creation

Sunday, November 5 First Article Stewardship

Stewards of Salvation

Sunday, November 12 Second Article Stewardship

Stewards of the Church

Sunday, November 29 Third Article Stewardship

*No Bible class Sunday: October 29 (Centennial Celebration) November 19 (congregational meeting and potluck)

Upcoming Worship Opportunities



Thanksgiving: Giving Thanks Together

Join us for worship as we give thanks to God together this year at Jehovah and King of Kings Lutheran! We have two opportunities for Thanksgiving worship.

Tuesday, November 21, 6:30pm Evening Divine Service with Children's Choir from King of Kings Lutheran School

Mrs. Elizabeth Wegner, Directing Choir

Rev. Steven Bielenberg, Preaching Rev. Dr. Joshua Miller, Presiding

Thursday, November 23, 9:30am

Thanksgiving Day Divine Service Rev. Dr. Joshua Miller, Preaching Rev. Steven Bielenberg, Presiding

If you would like to volunteer to help with food, serving, and clean-up for supper, please let us know!



Advent: Unwrapping the Gifts



This year, we will do Advent midweek services in conjunction with outreach in collaboration with other partners in the St. Paul Outreach Center.

We will have a schedule as follows:

4:30 - After-school activities

5:30 - Supper

6:30 - Advent Evening Prayer

Wednesday, December 6: Unwrapping Baptism

and Absolution

Rev. Dr. Joshua Hollmann preaching

Wednesday, December 13: Unwrapping the

Word

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Samuel Deressa

Wednesday December 20: Unwrapping the

Lord's Supper

Rev. Dr. Joshua C. Miller preaching



Follow the Star

IT'S TIME TO DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!



Join us for this joyous occasion

Saturday December 2nd 3:30pm.

We'll share a pizza dinner at 5:00pm, then enjoy Caroling and Cocoa. Bring cookies to share.

Come for any or all of the activities.

See you there!





Share hope and joy
with youth experiencing homelessness
this holiday season!



The holidays can be a difficult time of year for the young people we support. Gifts received during the holidays allow youth to celebrate and feel valued while on their journey to independence and a bright future. It means the world to young people to receive gifts that best suit them and their children provided by caring community members. Watch the bulletin board by the lounge or call Janet Fishback at 612-388-5286 for more information.



JEHOVAH SERVICE AND EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Divine Service

9:30am Sundays in the Sanctuary

Invite a friend and join us for a year of connecting and Walking Together.



Living by Faith

11:00am on Sundays Ages 14 - 100+

Join us in person in the lounge

Contact Pastor Miller with questions at pastorjoshuamiller@gmail.com.



Growing in Faith

Ages Birth - 13 years

Gather with us weekly in the nursery after the Divine Service.

Parents are welcome to stay with their children.

Men's Bible Study

Join us for Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 11:00am in the lounge.

Bring your own Bible and coffee mug, if you like, or use the ones provided.

No RSVP necessary

Contact Pastor Miller with any questions.





Jehovah Lutheran Church Women

Join us for coffee, conversation, prayer, and Bible Study on the first Thursday of the month **December 7 at 1:00pm.**

Open to everyone.

Our curriculum comes from
the Lutheran Women's Quarterly
If you have questions or would like
more information, contact Pastor Miller.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

November 5

Revelation 7:2-17

This vision of the seer assures ultimate salvation for the faithful who stand firm through the end-time crises of persecution.

1 John 3:1-3

As God's children we are not of the world but rather live holy lives while awaiting the hope of eternal life.

Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes exclaim the happiness of those blessed with God's favor, even when persecuted because of righteousness.



November 12

Amos 5:18-24

The people thought that the Day of the Lord meant victory over their enemies. Amos warns that liturgy is no substitute for obedience: "Let justice roll down."

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Paul assures the Thessalonians that all, whether living or now already dead, will rise and be with the Lord forever.

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids calls all to "keep awake" as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man.

November 19

Zephaniah 1:7-16

"The day of the Lord is near," says Zephaniah, and God's wrath will erupt against the nations as well as his own people for their false worship.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The sudden and inevitable coming of the Day of the Lord urges us to encourage one another to be prepared for the salvation through

Jesus Christ.

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus' parable offers a life-style for the interim before the Son of Man comes, urging us to make the best use of the gifts given us.



November 26

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Israel's kings had proved to be bad shepherds.
The Lord declares that he himself will be their shepherd and promises another shepherd, David, to care well for them.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Jesus' resurrection is the first event in a series of victorious events in God's eternal plan.

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who judges at the end time, showing discipleship to be a life of love for neighbor and care for "the least of these my brothers."



CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The theme for Centennial events is "100 Years of Grace: Walking Together at Jehovah Lutheran."

The first Centennial event on Reformation Sunday was a great success! We look forward to seeing you at future Centennial Sundays at these dates:

Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 2024. Focus will be on the 1940s-50s.

Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024. Focus will be on the 1960s-70s.

Rally Sunday, September 8, 2024. Focus will be on the 1980s-90s.

Reformation Sunday, October 27, 2024. Focus will be on the 2000s-20s.

SAVE THE DATE AND BRING YOUR SMILE!

As part of the 100th anniversary year of Jehovah, the Centennial committee will be publishing an updated directory with photos. There will be 2 opportunities to get your photo taken by May Lee at Jehovah. The first day will be **Sunday**, **November 19**th after the service as we also enjoy a congregational meeting and potluck. (These photos will just be for the directory, nothing will be for purchase.) You can also submit your own (non-copyrighted photo). Talk to Katie Miller for more details. Say "Jeeeesus!"

A NOTE FROM PASTOR RUSCHKE

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Congratulations as you begin to celebrate a century of God's grace and blessing as a community of faith in the Midway area. It was privilege to have been a part of that century, first, for six years as a student at Concordia Academy, then as your pastor for twenty-three years. We thank God for letting us be a part of your ministry for almost one-third of that century. We know that God will continue to bless all the challenges that you undertake for God's glory in the years to come.

We thank you for keeping us on the mailing list so we keep up with your ministry efforts. We thank God that your pastor declined his recent call. May God continue to bless your ministry together. Your challenges are many in the Midway community. God's grace is greater for your challenges in your changing community

We would love to join you for the bowling event, however, the heavy bowling balls would be too much for our ninety-one-year old bodies. Furthermore, we might injure some spectators if we lost control of our walkers. Please keep us informed of further celebration events. We have family in Minnesota and may visit them some time so we could drop in to celebrate in person with you.

Lois & Palmer Ruschke

"The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength." Nehemiah 8:10-11



NOVEMBER 19 VOTERS' MEETING AND POTLUCK

The next Voters' Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, November 19,** with a potluck dinner to follow.

Members, please bring a dish to share.

A-J: dessert, K-Q: salad or side dish, and R-Z: main dish.

Beverages will be provided.



LIFE TOGETHER: FIGHT GLOBAL HUNGER

Join us to feed global neighbors facing hunger! Saturday, November 18, at the Coon Rapids location of Feed My Starving Children, 401 93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433. We have 20 spots available, so RSVP soon with Pastor or Katie Miller. We will also go out for dessert together after the event. Carpooling is available! Please let us know if you need a ride or can help drive. Hope to see you there!

Orphan Grain Train 🕇

Global Human Care Fund For the months of November - January, the Fund returns to highlighting the work done by Orphan Grain Train. This organization is especially necessary in months when food can be short for many or in times of famine. "Last fiscal year nearly 5.4 million fortified rice meals were shipped to those hungry and malnourished worldwide." Check out the bulletin board in the hallway for lots of details about current projects, mission, needs, and more for this group. Next week an insert in the bulletin will also be included. All funds collected from now will be sent directly to Orphan Grain Train. If you would like to support this ministry, you can donate via check (made out to Jehovah with "Global Human Care Fund" as a memo) in the offering. We rejoice in this opportunity to serve our neighbors near and far!



OUTREACH NEWS St. Paul Outreach Center (SPOC)



The SPOC is a joint outreach mission of the St. Paul Circuit of LCMS congregations and the Minnesota South District. We are also working in collaboration with Concordia University St. Paul Campus Ministries. CSP is a university of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The SPOC has an outreach coordinator who collaborates and organizes outreach with the Pastors and lay volunteers of circuit congregations, with Rev. Vue Lee (the assistant for mission to MNS President Lucas Woodford), CSP Campus Ministries, and other partners with whom we may later engage.

Dr. David Mennicke serves coordinator for the cooperative outreach center of the St. Paul Metro Circuit.

THANK YOU!

HUGE thanks to David Mennicke, the Grandstrands, Jim Seemann, Marc Hequet, CSP international students, and everyone who donated time, labor, funds, coats, and other warm gear to the Winter Coat Drive of the St. Paul Outreach Center. The drive was a record-smashing success. We blew away our previous record of 200 coats in 4 hours. This year, we gave away 350 coats (not to mention over 600 hats, pairs of gloves, and other accessories) in 1 hour!!! In the following weeks, we have given away more coats and warm gear as both needs and donations have continued to flow in!

Share
with the Lord's people
who are in need.
Practice hospitality.
Romans 12:13

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES: JOIN US!

English Conversation and Relationships

Anna Gruen, Concordia University St. Paul's Ministry Associate, has provided our congregation with an introduction to the partnership ministry between local LCMS congregations and their incoming international students. There are over 56 international students who have requested Friendship Families! More volunteers are needed! Talk with Pastor Miller if you are interested in this opportunity.

After-School Activities

The St. Paul Outreach Center has begun pop-up after-school enrichment activities in Hamline Park from 4:30-6:00pm on Wednesdays. In addition, Martin and Peter Miller are working with Coach Ashe Hatte from Mekane Yesus Fellowship on Friday evenings to engage neighborhood youth in soccer practice and scrimmages. So far, we have averaged about 15-20 kids and parents engaged in these activities each week.

In the coming weeks, we will be moving outreach indoors, using our gym, classrooms, and other spaces to host these activities. During Advent, we will be serving community meals on Wednesdays as part of these ongoing activities. We need more hands and feet involved in these outreach efforts! We need volunteers to help with meals. We need help preparing our indoor facilities. Above all, we need Christians with warm hearts who will show up and show Christ's love to our neighbors. Please contact Pastor, Katie Miller, or David Mennicke for more information on how you can be involved!

Wanted - Your Legos!

The Saint Paul Outreach Center would like to include a "Lego Club" as one of its outreach activities. Do you have Legos you can donate? We would love to have them! Want to join the club? Please contact Katie Miller or David Mennicke to let us know. Thank you for all your support!

MESSAGE FROM SPOC COORDINATOR, DR. DAVID MENNICKE

Dear friends and partners in ministry:
Greetings! This is an update on our shared St.
Paul Outreach Center activities in September and October. Highlights--100 people at the International Potluck kickoff, nearly 30 at the Wednesday afternoon after school program, continued Friday afternoon soccer, and over 150 served at today's Coat Drive! Some pictures from the coat drive.

Thanks to all who have contributed to these events. I believe most of our partners donated clothing over the past weeks. For today's coat drive, special thanks to the volunteers from Jehovah, King of Kings, and the international students from CSP.

We have more events planned--continuing the Friday soccer and Wednesday after school activities, Midweek Advent offerings in December, and more in 2024. We are eager to continue and build on this marvelous joint ministry opportunity God has provided for us-- please keep tuned in for future news! God's blessings to us all as we continue to share God's love for the world!

Dr. David L. Mennicke Coordinator, St. Paul Outreach Center Professor of Music, Concordia University, St. Paul Freelance clinician, singer, composer/arranger Home phone: 651-636-3271





"The coat drive
was a
recordsmashing
success!"









WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, December 7
1:00pm

All are welcome!

2023-2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 2

A HEALING SPACE FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota \$100,000

A specialized chapel has been designed to provide hope and healing for at-risk children, ages 10 to 18, in the care of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Bismarck, North Dakota, campus. Children at this facility have faced severe trauma in their lives, and need healing that only Jesus can give. This mission grant will help with building costs of the new chapel and provide spiritual care for these children, their families, and the Ranch staff.

To learn more, visit <u>lwml.org/mission-grants</u> or check the bulletin board in the hallway.

THE NEW FREEDOM STORE FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Your District Missions at Work THE NEW FREEDOM STORE

At the September District Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, a discussion revolved around highlighting the missions supported by the district. The result was the direction to provide resources to congregations in the form of bulletin inserts and posters. It is the hope of the Board of Directors and district staff that these resources will help members know how their gifts are being utilized to further God's kingdom.

Each month, a focus will be given to one of our district missions. For the month of October, the highlight will be *The New Freedom Store*.

Led by Director of Christian Education emeritus, Dr. Jim Seemann, *The New Freedom Store* works with various local minis-tries such as homeless shelters, halfway houses, and other local agencies.

We invite you to pray for *The New Freedom*Store in your personal and corporate prayers, that those who lead & serve would be strengthened in their efforts to reach people with the good news of Jesus.

We need your help to make these efforts successful! Would you please share the "mission of the month" at your circuit meetings so the pastors in your area are aware of this endeavor? Would you please promote district missions as you travel through your circuit to various congregations? Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

God's blessings as you live in His grace!



MAIN STREET LIVING SUNDAYS 9:00–10:00am WFTC CHANNEL 29/9-2



Main Street Living is an LCMS program that features pastors from the WFTC, channel 29/9-2, viewer area. The first half hour is a reproduction of *This is the Life*. The second half hour is a modified Lutheran worship service, which is produced locally. Program information for November is below. To watch, go to mainstreetliving.com and select the "Twin Cities" tab.

- November 5: "The Deadly Pen" A businessman struggles with the guilt of another man's death.
- November 12: "Transition" A young boy reacts to the divorce of his parents and the new reality he now faces.
- November 19: "Senior Citizen" A man struggles with purpose and a place in life after retirement.
- November 26: "The Gift" A daughter struggles with what to do with birthday gift money.

JOIN US FOR OUR TALKATIVE THURSDAY CALL - IN CHAT



We chat at 11:10am each Thursday. All you need is your phone. Dial: 978-990-5000. If you are using a land line please dial 1 and then the number. When prompted enter the JELC code:

796345#

After the beep just say hello and your name. We can visit about how our days are going, silver linings, concerns, etc. We also will have a short devotion and prayer.

Join us on Thursdays at 11:10am

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, as indeed you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11



ACTIVITY CALENDAR

November 2023



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Thanksgiving Blessings			Men's Bible Study 11:00am After School Outreach 4:30pm	Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am LWML Bible Study 1:00pm Open to all	3	4
9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Growing in Faith after Service Nursery Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge	6	7	Men's Bible Study 11:00am After School Outreach 4:30pm	9 Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am	10	11
9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Growing in Faith after Service Nursery Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge	13	14	Men's Bible Study 11:00am After School Outreach 4:30pm	Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am	17	18
9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Voters' Meeting and Potluck	20	21 Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:30pm	After School Outreach 4:30pm	Happy Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Day Service 9:30am at King of Kings OFFICE CLOSED	24	25
9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Growing in Faith after Service Nursery Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge	27 Jottings Articles due	28	After School Outreach 4:30pm	Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am	DECEMB SUN MON TUE WI	ER 2023 D THU FRI SAT 1 2 6 7 8 9 13 14 15 16 20 21 22 23 27 28 29 30



OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR HOURS

Tuesday - Thursday 8:30Am -1:30PM Friday 8:30Am -12:30PM

Email submissions for the December issue of *The Jottings*IS NOVEMBER 27TH
to office@jehovahlutheran.org

Contact us!

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Jehovah Lutheran Church Is a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod