

St. John's Epistle

May 2024

A Newsletter of

St. John's Lutheran Church—LCMS
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<https://www.stjohnsladysmith.org>



When you pass through the

waters,

I will be with you; And through the

rivers,

they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through

fire,

you shall not be burned,
and the the flame
shall not consume you.

Isaiah 43:2, ESV



When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed ten thousand talents. (Matthew 18:24)

There are many things in life that can cause us to have debt. Debt is not fun and can cause many problems! Credit card debt, the amount all Americans owe on their credit cards, rose to a record \$1.13 trillion at the end of last year, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York reported according to USA Today (February 7, 2024). The U.S. national debt passed \$33.99 trillion in January 2024. You wonder if those debts will ever be paid off! The more you think about it, the more quickly you come to the conclusion that it is almost impossible. It is just way too much!

How do things stand in your spiritual relationship with God? Can you by your best efforts ever pay off all the debts of your sin? It's a question you better have an answer for since it has eternal consequences. In the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, Jesus teaches us it is impossible to pay off our own debt!

Our debts before God are all our sins in thoughts, words, and deeds. There are so many that we can't even begin to consider them. So what does that mean? Well, quite frankly, by ourselves we would be in big trouble if we didn't have help! There would be no way that we could ever pay them off. Our lives would end eternally separated from God and heaven!

Yet, here is the great blessing of God's love for us. Our debts, past, present, and future have all been paid for. They were laid on Jesus, the Lamb of God, who took away all the sins of the world—even yours. The Apostle Paul wrote, **“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood**

against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13-14). In other words, God got rid of our debt. He stamped on every bill for sin: "Paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ." Yes, they were paid for in full!

This promise applies to all who are "alive with Christ" (Ephesians 2:5), to all who trust in Him as their Savior. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Craig S. Zandi



Notification of Pastor When in the Hospital

There has been some confusion when people check in or go to the hospital. The hospital will **not automatically** inform your church, or pastor, that you are there unless it is specifically stated in your records. Furthermore, inform your family members to call your pastor. They can also contact the chaplain's office at the hospital and give them the information. Again, don't assume the hospital will do it, because they won't. You must be proactive to make sure your pastor is informed if you want him to come see you. Many times people are in the hospital and he has no idea they are there.

ASSISTING FOR THE MONTH OF MAY


Acolytes: *Ushers/Youth*

Altar Guild: *Donna Howard & Mary Ann Riegel*

Finance: *Tom Rosolowski & Jim Kuchta*

Worship Assistants for May

- | | |
|---|--|
| Sunday, May 5 | Elder: Tom Rosolowski |
| | Greeters: Janice Zandi |
| | Ushers: <u>Team 3</u>: Dennis Flater-Captain,
Bob Hauser, Alden Hook, Ray Tousey,
Kurt Harris |
| | |
| Sunday, May 12
<i>Caring & Sharing</i> | Elder: Tim Dolan |
| | Greeters: Bonnie Tatro |
| | Ushers: <u>Team 4</u>: Chuck Perenchio-Captain,
Sam Barg, Dave Werner, John Monnier,
Gene Zillmer |
| : | |
| Sunday, May 19
<i>LWML</i>
<i>Mites In</i>
<i>Gathering</i> | Elder: Darrell Kuchta |
| | Greeters: Lee Purdy |
| | Ushers: <u>Team 5</u>: Jim Kuchta-Captain,
Gary Drohman, Don Josi, Dave Thompson,
Russ Thompson |
| | |
| Sunday, May 26
<i>Stewardship Sunday</i> | Elder: Randy Scott |
| | Greeters: Gil & Jean Johnson |
| | Ushers: <u>Team 1</u>: Dave Scott-Captain,
Dave Kuchta, Tom Rosolowski,
Vic Plockelman, Stu Pask |



It's hard to believe the end of the school year is already here!

We will be busy during the month of May with yearend activities-handprints, graduation pictures and practice, etc.

For the month of May, our Bible lessons will focus on: Philip and the Ethiopian, Timothy, Paul, and Remembering that Jesus is with us wherever we go.

Our students have become letter and name writing experts as well as scissor experts.

Please join us on Wednesday, May 22nd at 6:00PM for our graduation ceremony.

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Newsletter
Article – May 2024

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without technically lying. You tell just enough of the truth to skate on by.

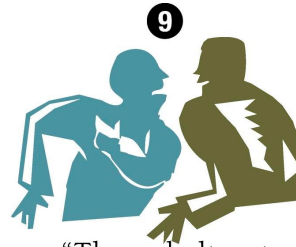
We often play the game of seeing how close we can get to sinning without technically going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people – we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.



“Thou shalt not
bear false
witness
against thy
neighbour.”

Exodus 20:16

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

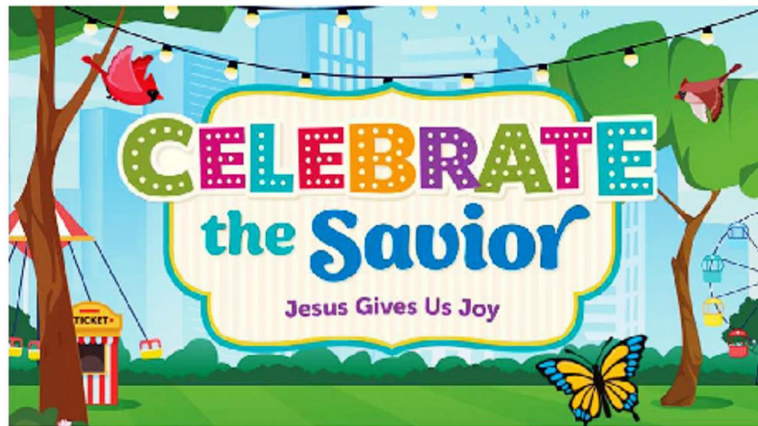
But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.



What Luther says:

In a sermon of November 13, 1530 on Matthew 18:21-35, Luther remarks that the fact that we must believe despite the testimony of our senses makes believing hard.

This is a profound message and heavenly wisdom that we believe that our righteousness, salvation, and comfort lie outside us; that we are righteous, pleasing holy, and wise before God, while only sin, unrighteousness, and folly are within us. My conscience only feels and only thinks sin and the fear of death; but I should look elsewhere and believe that sin and death do not exist. He who does not see what he does see and does not feel what he does feel must be thoroughly bewitched! I feel that I have been, and still am, a bad fellow. Nevertheless, I must say: All my sins have been forgiven me; for this word has been spoken over me, Your sins are forgiven! But as stated, the trouble with flesh and blood is that it always wants to produce something on which it relies. Man cannot rid himself of the feeling of sin and grasp pure grace and the forgiveness of sins. After you have mastered this art, that you cannot see what you do feel, we intend to preach something more difficult to you. But I dare say you will still have to study this lesson for a while. For to believe forgiveness of sin is like saying it is nothing when someone points a loaded pistol at you and is about to discharge it. (WLS, p 519)



VBS 2024

Of all the blessings that God gives us, His Son, Jesus is the **BIGGEST** reason to **CELEBRATE!** We will learn about Jesus' unending love and forgiveness and spend the day **CELEBRATING** our Savior through Bible stories, snacks, fun crafts, engaging activities and catchy music.

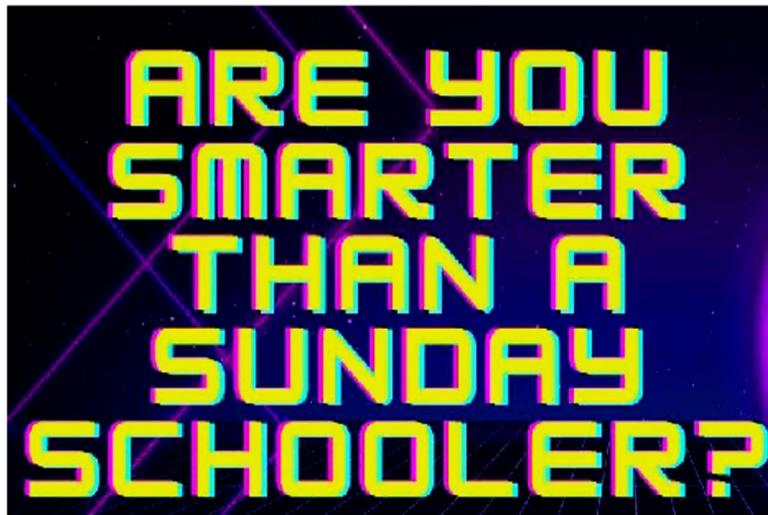
Thursday, July 11th
8:00am – 3:30pm

*Tell your friends - Tell your family – Tell everyone you meet!
We are excited to get this party started and want to be sure that YOU
are here to CELEBRATE with us!*

Registration Forms are available in the Fellowship Hall and in the
Church Office

May 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Everything is subject to change. Please check our website (www.stjohnsladysmith.org), Facebook, and/or phone the Church office 715-532-5780.			1 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	2 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	3	4 10:00AM LWML Bible Study 11:00AM LWML Meeting
5 9:00AM Worship <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School	6 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 11:30AM Ladies Luncheon	7 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 6:00PM BOCE/YM	8 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 1:00PM Ladies Society 6:30-7:15PM Confirmation	9 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	10	11
12 Caring and Sharing 8:00AM Finance 9:00AM Worship +HC with Confirmation <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School 11:15 Elder meeting	13 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	14 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	15 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	16 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	17	18 10:00-noon Crafty Stitches
St John's Volunteers serve meals at the Senior Center Meal Site this week						
19 LWML Mites Ingathering 9:00AM Worship <i>NO Bible Study</i> "Are You Smarter than A Sunday Schooler" 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School Last day of Sunday School	20 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	21 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 1:00PM FAPQG 6:00PM Council NEWSLETTER ITEMS ARE DUE TODAY	22 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 6:00PM Preschool Graduation	23 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant 8:30-11:30AM Preschool ō Last dayō	24	25
26 Stewardship Sunday 9:00AM Worship +HC <i>Bible Study after worship</i>	27	28	29	30	31	



Join the fun on
Sunday, May 19th
as the youth of our Sunday School
challenge members from the
Board of Elders to a friendly game of
**"Are You Smarter than a
Sunday Schooler"**

**Our game show will take place in the
fellowship hall, immediately following
the worship service.**

**We will need people in the "audience" to help
cheer on our teams and maybe even help them
with a few answers.**



Diamond Tours-The Ark Encounter & Creation Museum

Monday August 5 through Friday August 9, 2024
\$650 per person-double occupancy

Package Includes:

Motor coach transportation from St. John's Church
Gratuity for the Bus Driver
4 Nights Lodging
4 Breakfasts and 2 Dinners
Admission to the Ark Encounter & the Creation Museum

\$75 deposit with completed application due by April 2, 2024
Checks made payable to 6 Diamond Tours
Balance due by May 29, 2024

Priority reservations given to St. John's members with paid deposit and completed application prior to Feb.29, 2024

Starting March 1, 2024, other area LCMS church's will be offered the tour in order to fill a minimum of 30 to a maximum of 52 seats on the bus. First come, first served.

Brochures, applications, and travel insurance information in the Fellowship Hall.

North Wisconsin Lutheran Women's Missionary League

40th Biennial Convention 2024: Appleton, WI

The Lutheran Women in Mission have chosen Harbor House to receive our Gifts from the Heart. We will be collecting items May 1 to June 9, 2024

Harbor House serves victim-survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Outagamie and Calumet Counties. The mission of Harbor House is to serve all people impacted by domestic and sexual violence, lead the shift in perception of violence, and advocate for lasting social change.

Items Needed

standard size bed pillows, disinfectant wipes, Dawn dish soap, Tupperware containers, cold medicines (adult and children), hair brushes, slippers (all sizes) snack & quart size zip lock bags, liquid hand soap (small bottles), bleach, full size laundry baskets, bath towels, twin size sheets, gifts cards (Kwik Trip, Target, Walmart, Woodman's, Pick N Save), fleece for making tie blankets

During this time we will also be collecting the items for **Embrace in Ladysmith, WI**

Embrace, formerly the Time Out Shelter, has been providing safe shelter and services to survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault in the four county service area of Rusk, Washburn, Barron, and Price Counties.

Items Needed

Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Shampoo & Conditioner, Windex or other glass cleaner, Toilet bowl cleaner, Disinfectant spray, Bleach or other floor cleaner, Bath Towels, Pillows, Old smart cellphones with chargers (phones cleared, PIN shared), \$10 Kwik Trip gas cards Monetary donations [made on their website embracewi.org](http://embracewi.org) so they can pay for rent, security deposits, bus tickets, car repairs, etc. to help keep survivors safe and stable in their homes/new home.



**2023–2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 8 EXPANDING GOSPEL
PROCLAMATION WORLDWIDE CONCORDIA SEMINARY,
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI | \$100,00**

We rejoice knowing that in a number of countries, Christianity, including Lutheranism, is growing, and increased numbers of people are being reached with the Good News of Jesus Christ. However, ensuring the continued spread of the Gospel overseas with informed interpretation of Scripture according to Lutheran doctrine is highly dependent on addressing the significant shortage of well-formed pastors in several countries. Many nations have few seminary professors with advanced-level theological educations. The consequence is that these countries' Lutheran church bodies are unable to adequately train and produce well-formed pastors. They see Concordia Seminary as the gold standard. A seminary is where you send someone to prepare them to serve their church in a meaningful way. They know Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, has over 180 years of experience in quality theological education. They look at the history and see the results.

Concordia Seminary is committed to addressing this concern to further the Great Commission with its Graduate School's ongoing acceptance and preparation of highly qualified international students. Most of these students, after earning their advanced theological degrees, will become master and doctorate level professors at their countries' seminaries. They will assume key roles in raising up the next generation of pastors to proclaim the Gospel among their people. They also will serve as leaders involved in further organizing and growing their church bodies, helping ensure that those living in every region of their nations will hear and learn of the wonderful message of salvation through Christ.

The Graduate School provides high-level theological learning via an interactive seminar format that includes frequent discussion and exchange of information, concepts, and opinions. Foreign students have shared their education not just academically, but there is a deeper spiritual engagement in these courses as well. The Seminary faculty make themselves available outside the classroom. They engage the students by talking with them and learning from them. The foreign students attend chapel and participate in numerous seminary conferences.

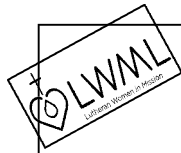
**2023–2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 8 EXPANDING GOSPEL
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PRAYER #1 Dear heavenly Father, as international students come to grow in their knowledge of You, please empower them with Your Word and Sacraments to complete the task which is ahead of them. Please guide and protect them so that they can return to their home countries and spread the knowledge of You that they have learned at Concordia Seminary. Make them bold witnesses and powerful educators wherever they serve You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER #2 Lord, we thank You for these willing servants who have heard the call to be equipped to share the Good News with the people of their home countries. Please bless their ability to learn and grow at Concordia Seminary. Continue to watch over them and their professors as they are prepared to further Your kingdom. You know their needs and will provide for them. Strengthen them through Your Word and Spirit and send them out to comfort and strengthen others with Your Word. In Your name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER #3 Heavenly Father, the funds from this grant will do wonderful things around the world by the training that international pastors will receive while attending Concordia Seminary. May the hearts and minds of the future pastors they will train at home be open to Your Holy Word. Equip them for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ, and spreading the word about salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER #4 Dear Lord, we give You thanks for the opportunity to be part of spreading Your Word around the world. The significant financial reality is that most of the global students are from developing countries whose church bodies do not have the funds to send them abroad to study. We are grateful for the opportunity to assist with the funding of their advanced education. We know that the world will be transformed by hearing Your Word from the returning pastors in their own countries and mighty things can happen as God's Word is shared. In Jesus' name. Amen.

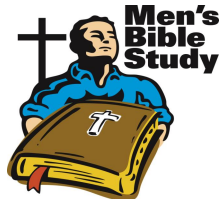


May 4, 2024 10:00AM Ladies Bible study
ōBaptized, Equipped, Servingö by Mary
Sharenbrock, and öTake My Lifeö Two short
Bible studies copies are found in the LWML mailbox

May 4, 2024 11:00AM Business
meeting



Mites are collected on the third Sunday of each month! Simply deposit your donation in the large mite box when you come to worship. These mites continue to fund district and national mission projects. Check the LWML bulletin board for details on some of those projects. Please let Amy Tousey or Paula Hook know if you have any questions.



Men's Bible Study will be
on Thursday, **May 9th &
23rd** 7:00AM at the
Ladysmith Family
Restaurant.

Ladies! Birthday lunches aren't just for birthdays; of course birthdays for the month are celebrated, but also it gives us an informal excuse to get together with our sisters in Christ to form bonds and friendships. No invitation needed!



Birthday Mondays!
Monday, **May 6th** at
11:30 a.m. at the
Ladysmith Family
Restaurant.
All are welcome!



**The Next Caring and Sharing Sunday
is **May 12th****

**This is your opportunity to show you care
for the hungry in our community by making a donation
to the Hope Food Pantry or show your concern
for the hungry children in our community by making
a donation to the
Back Pack Program.**

Rada Knives

If you are interested in purchasing Rada Knives, please
contact Lorraine Flohr at 715-532-5095

All proceeds go to the St. John's Ladies Aid.

Orders are processed quickly! *They make great Christmas
and wedding gifts.*

<p>ONGOING COLLECTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Aluminum cans for Preschool ◆ Canceled Stamps (LWML) ◆ Greeting cards ◆ Used eye glasses ◆ Soft eyeglass cases 	<p>Please, leave only aluminum cans! We cannot take aluminum foil, plates, etc.;; aluminum cans only! Thanks for your assistance.</p>
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1	Karen Kmosena
2	Dalton Thompson
3	Tammy Busse, Tim Dolan
4	Debbie Flater
6	Paula Hook, Gil Johnson
10	Mike Kuchta
12	Marty Shimko
13	Kristin Flater
15	Bonnie Tatro
19	Ernie Mogensen, Jordan Pask
20	Kim Skabroud
25	Lee Purdy
26	Wyatt Blomberg, Bill Myers
27	Maria Basham, Lucille Bernard
28	Matt Boehmer, Chris Kibellus, Josh Zandi
29	Clara Basham



1	Lisa & Don Gleason
4	Jason & Meagan Balko
11	Travis & Melissa Hilliard
13	Tom & Kathy Silvernale
19	Roberta & Joe Baye
26	Bob & Rachel Hauser
28	Vic & Bonnie Plockelman
31	Gil & Jean Johnson



UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment.
How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

*Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong.
Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.*

- flower, stem, bee, leaf ○
- pink, red, yellow, blue ○
- mother, sister, brother, aunt ○
- purple, dress, skirt, blouse ○
- necklace, ring, bracelet, braid ○
- diamond, emerald, heart, ruby ○
- orange, cherry, potato, kiwi ○
- my, our, she, your ○
- faith, family, love, hope ○
- sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature ○
- cookie, cake, pie, sandwich ○
- silver, white, gold, bronze ○

"Rather, it should be that of your inner self,
the unfading beauty of a g _____
and qu _____ p _____, which is
of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:4, NIV