

Messenger

Saved to Share
Called to Care

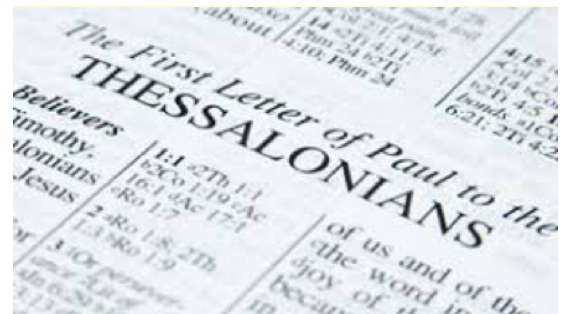
From the Desk of Pastor Tanney
The Power of Prayer

So I get this memo from Cheryl, I need your article... today. What?! I just finished Holy Week, I need a break. What am I going to write? What's on my mind? What's on my desk? Lot's of bulletins and sermons with the theme: "Thy Will be Done." Also on my desk is an invitation for Friendship Sunday with the words "The Power of Prayer."

Prayer is one of those, Christian themes we don't talk much about, let alone do. I can't say for most of you, but prayer is not a priority for me. Oh don't get me wrong, your pastor prays, it's just not a priority. If you are honest it probably is not a priority for you either. There is just so much going on in life prayer is not a part of it. (By the way, I would love for someone to tell me I'm wrong)

My mother sent me a letter of what I am to say at her funeral about a year ago. Yeah she is a little strange, she even gave me the songs I'm suppose to sing at her funeral. (There all about heaven.) Anyway, it states and I quote "I want you to know I have prayed for each and every one of you BY NAME, every child and their spouses, every grandchild and their spouses, and every great-grandchild, and even my great-great grand children. This is my last prayer for you - that you will join me in heaven with Jesus by accepting Jesus as your Savior and letting Him be Lord over your life."

What is she saying, your life is like it is because I prayed for you? Or your life from now on will not have the prayer cover it once did? Hmm...



The Letter to the Thessalonians
New Friday Morning
Bible Study Series
Starting April 6
8:00am
Please Join Us



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So someone does believe in the power of prayer. I have heard her many a night praying long and hard. She does have 23 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren and more great, great-grandchildren. So though I don't take prayer as seriously as Mom, I know Mom is praying for me all the time and for my wife and our children and yes our grandchildren. Do you have someone praying for you that often? Do you wish you had someone that would pray for you everyday, or that you could go to and ask for prayer and know that they are not just saying, "I'll pray for you" and forget to do it?



I probably have more questions than answers about prayer. On one hand I feel good when someone says, "I'll pray for you". On the other hand

If I believe it to be that powerful, why don't I just spend an hour of prayer for Friendship Sunday instead of a service of songs, lessons, preaching and oh yes, prayer.

Why, when I look at the prayers in the bulletin my heart sinks because they take so much time to pray?

Here is what I know: God commands and invites us to pray. Only prayers directed to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will be heard. The prayers of only those who believe in Jesus Christ will be answered. Our prayers should give glory to God in the asking and in the thanksgiving. Faith is required in Jesus, with firm trust that our prayers will be answered (according to God's revealed will). So God hears the prayers of Christians but answers them in His own way and time. I am commanded not to pray to or for the dead. Jesus showed me how to pray when He taught us the Lord's prayer.

James 5: 16b The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

I'm wondering what they are praying?
Does it matter how many times I pray a prayer?
Does it matter if more people pray it?
Does it matter if it is trivial or very important?
Does it matter if it is for others or for myself?
Do I have to believe what I'm praying?
Does my prayer have to be specific or is it better to be more general?
Does it matter who prays the prayer?
Does it matter if I use the right words, like "in Jesus name" or if "Thy will be done"? Does my relationship to God matter when I pray?
So how powerful is prayer?



Future Messenger Newsletters

Beginning in June, Messengers will be sent out every 2 months (June, August, October, December, February, April).

Please have articles, announcements, and dates for the calendars provided to the church office by the 15th of the month.

Calendars will be sent out monthly by email and in the bulletin announcements.

Weekly updates will continue in our bulletins and also be sent out by email or placed on the blog on our website.

If you not receiving emails or would like to receive our blog please email the church office or sign up on our

website: stjohnslutheranstlouis.org

Social Ministry

Food Pantry received groceries from Webster Garden's Lutheran Church on March 11th. Thanks to everyone who assisted in unloading and putting the food away.

Two of our members continue to interview clients to find out what other physical needs they may have instead of just food. Report will follow in the near future.

The mission to which Christ calls the Church clearly includes works of charity. Throughout His public ministry, Jesus demonstrated the degree to which we are to provide service to others. The church is called to direct services, such as providing food, clothing and shelter. The letter of James reminds us Christians that faith without works is dead. (James 2:14-17)

"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed', but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

Our food pantry keeps going because of all of your faith and deeds. Thanks to everyone for helping to serve the community, with providing clothes and monetary contributions.

Blessings and peace to all as we celebrate our risen Lord and Savior.

Evangelism



Friendship Sunday

April 15

9:00am

***Continental Breakfast
following the worship service
Please invite family and friends***

Special Thanks

Melissa Schrum has volunteered as the administrator of our Facebook page and Website. If you haven't looked at our pages lately, check them out!

Facebook: St. Johns Lutheran Church - St. Louis City

Website: stjohnslutheranchurchstlouis.org

Stewardship

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our savior. His atoning sacrifice is the firstfruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father – and ours – so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him.

He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood. As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word.

By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10).

How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving it generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support: your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that in so doing, you will never lack.

I can almost hear it now: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” But our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents, “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.

If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10-13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “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” (Matt. 6:19-21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings.

It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace, His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages just quoted do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. For “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things” (Rom. 8:32)?



April 2 **Cameron Hampel**
Ruth Trauth
April 3 **Craig Goebel**
April 9 **Karl Frerichs**
April 14 **Cindy Geiger**
April 20 **Tylor Bohannon**
April 25 **Joan Potvin**
Dennis Solomon

Please consider sending a birthday card to our shut in:

Dennis Solomon
Woodland Nursing Home
100 Woodland Ct. Room 203
Arnold, MO 63010

Rev. Mark Hawkinson Public Relations Coordinator and Host of Moments of Assurance at KFUE radio will be our guest preacher on KFUE Sunday, April 29 at 9:00am. He will also be leading Bible Class at 10:30am. A door offering will be taken for KFUE.

Be sure to ask him about storm spotting, or his two cats and two dogs. When he's relaxing at home, you may find him reading Justo Gonzalez's "Church History: An Essential Guide," watching "Goldfinger," or just listening to some Classic Rock. If the weather's nice, he'll take a spin around the yard on his lawn tractor, or visit the expansive sights and sounds of St. Louis's Forest Park. When his stomach wants food, he might be enjoying his Grandma's favorite recipe Chocolate Chip cookies, or maybe tomato soup with a cheese sandwich, but he will definitely have coffee in his KFUE mug! Bio from KFUE.org

April 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am Easter Sunday 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School	2 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Elders	3 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Vietnamese Bible Study	4 9:30am Preschool Chapel 3:30pm Compass 4:00pm Compass Chapel	5 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	6 8:00am Bible Study BBQ Set up	7 8:00am Social Ministry 8:30am Food Pantry 11am-4:00pm BBQ
8 9:00am Worship w/ Communion <i>Baptism & Confirmation</i> 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 12:15pm Pre-Seminary Training	9 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm WOW	10 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Vietnamese Bible Study	11 9:30am Preschool Chapel 3:30pm Compass 4:00pm Compass Chapel	12 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass	13 8:00am Bible Study 9:00 Friendship Sunday set up	14 8:30am Food Pantry 10:30am Friendship Sunday Set up
15 9:00am Friendship Sunday 10:00am Continental Breakfast 12:15pm Pre-Seminary Training	16 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Evangelism	17 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Vietnamese Bible Study	18 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:30am Avalon Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 4:00pm Compass Chapel	19 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	20 8:00am Bible Study	21 8:30am Food Pantry 2:00pm Banta Wedding
22 9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Class & Sunday School 12:15pm Pr-Seminary Training 2:30pm Scouts PineWood Derby in Fellowship Hall	23 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Ushers	24 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Vietnamese Bible Study	25 9:30am Preschool Chapel 3:30pm Compass 4:00pm Compass Chapel	26 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	27 8:00am Bible Study Pastor out of Town	28 8:30am Food Pantry Pastor out of Town
29 9:00am Worship KFUE Sunday 10:30am Bible Class Pastor out of Town	30 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Boy Scouts					

Our Mission

St. Johns Lutheran Church is a diverse family of saved sinners, walking together in forgiveness. Motivated by Christ's love, we will share the Gospel and care for the needs of all people.

Our Vision

St. Johns, partnering with Open Sky Education will do Christ-centered community outreach that engages our community with worship



DINE IN, CARRY OUT, OR DELIVERY (WITH 4 OR MORE ORDERS)

MENU INCLUDES:
RIBS, PORK STEAKS, CHICKEN, BRATWURST & HOT DOGS
DINNERS INCLUDE BREAD, DESSERT AND CHOICE OF 2 SIDES
\$3.00-\$18.50

**3738 MORGAN FORD RD.
ST. LOUIS, MO 63116
314-773-0126**

EMAIL ORDERS TO: stjohnslcstl@gmail.com by Friday, April 5

PROCEEDS SUPPORT ST. JOHNS FOOD PANTRY AND CUB SCOUT TROOP #125

St. Johns Lutheran Church
3738 Morgan Ford Rd
St. Louis, MO 63116

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