

FROM THE PASTOR

THE GIFT OF FAITH

A couple decades ago, our church body promoted a special stewardship series titled “Faith Alive.” It included a theme banner and four weekly pamphlets. One of those pamphlets had the additional subtitle “Trusting God.”

I can’t imagine any honest Christian who wouldn’t say a hearty “Amen” to that statement. We all know that trusting God is important. However, because of the weakness of our sinful nature, we often struggle with doubt. During difficult times we find it hard to trust God’s promises. Think of the father who came to Jesus with the request to heal his son. Jesus encouraged him to trust in him but the man said, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24)

The man believed in Jesus, but there was a part of him – his sinful nature - that didn’t believe. Unfortunately, that’s the reality of faith for all of God’s people. We wish we could perfectly trust in God, but sadly uncertainty or doubt creeps into our hearts way too often.

Just about every Sunday we make a confession of faith with the Apostles’ or Nicene Creed. The key truths of the Christian faith are very briefly and yet adequately summarized in those statements. We know those truths and believe them because the Holy Spirit has miraculously given us the gift of faith.

Since this faith is totally a gift, we need to keep going to the Lord with this request, “Lord, I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” We keep having a problem with unbelief because it’s such a “natural” part of us. Faith is a supernatural thing, and it is kept alive and strong only with the supernatural Word of our miracle-working, gift-giving God.

The most important thing to remember about faith is that it derives all of its strength from its object, that on which it rests. As a famous preacher once said, “It is not your hold on Christ that saves you; it is Christ. It is not your joy in Christ that saves you; it is Christ. It is not even your faith in Christ that saves you, though that is the instrument. It is Jesus Christ’s perfect life and his blood and merit given for you that saves you.” There might indeed be many instances where our trusting faith is pretty shaky, but our Savior and his promises are rock solid. We turn to his Word again and again and hear these words which are always true and will never let us down: “I love you! I have saved you! I will never let you go!”

- Pastor Kehren

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

All are welcome and encouraged to attend our next quarterly congregational meeting on Sunday, October 27th at 11:45 am.

A light lunch will be served.

John and Mara Hasenberg became members of our congregation through adult confirmation on Sunday, September 15th. We welcome them to the Jerusalem family!

SPECIAL SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

October 6 – Synod Sunday. Pastor Kevin Hundley will be our guest preacher. During the Bible study hour, 9:15 -10:15 am, Pastor Hundley will give an overview of the work of our church body, the WELS, so we can appreciate all the blessings we have being a part of the WELS.

October 13 – Gift Planning Seminar. During the Bible study hour, 9:15 am – 10:15 am, Mr. Rick Kneser, our district planned giving counselor, will give a presentation on estate planning and opportunities to support the Lord's work.

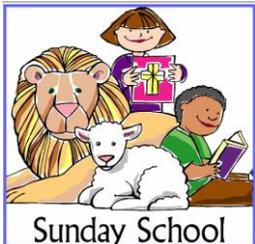
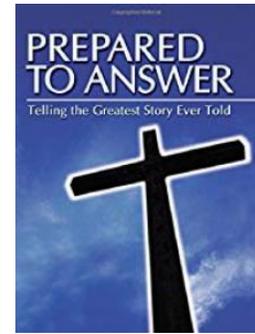
October 20 – Welcome Home Sunday. Together with churches across the WELS, we aim to have 100 percent of our members in worship. Please invite and encourage members whom you haven't seen in a while to come and welcome them with glad hearts and open arms.



Congregation member Richard Norton, husband of Cathy Norton who was a former teacher at Jerusalem school, was called to his heavenly home to be at his Savior's side on Thursday, August 22, 2019.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

On Sunday, October 20th, Pastor Kehren will begin a new Sunday morning Bible study called, 'Prepared to Answer.' This study is designed to help equip us to answer the various challenges and questions people may have when it comes to the Christian faith. 1 Peter 3:15 says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you for the reason for the hope that you have." Join us in the church sanctuary at 9:15 am.



Sunday School

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children age 3 through 6th grade starts at 9:15 am. Students meet in the kindergarten classroom for music before dispersing to their classrooms. The teen group (7th-12th grade) meets in the 5th-6th grade classroom.

"Toddlin' to Jesus" is a new class this year during Sunday school hour for our youngest children - newborn through age two with a parent. The class will include a short bible story, music, games, and a snack. This class meets in Ms. Tanya's 4K room.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY "One Christ, Many Creeds"

We continue the study of the teachings of other Christian denominations from a Lutheran perspective to develop a deeper understanding of the similarities as well as the differences. As always, we will test every teaching in light of what God's Word says. Join us at 10:00 am in the downstairs auditorium.



The WELS National Leadership Convention is open to all congregation members – paid church workers and volunteer lay members, for men and women, for those who are lifelong Lutherans and those who have recently joined. The conference will focus on larger strategic issues that are relevant for all congregations. The breakout sessions are more tactical in nature. The conference will provide the opportunity to network with leaders from other congregations for encouragement, for the sharing of wisdom, and for Christian fellowship. What will be shared is applicable to church leaders as well as those who do not serve in any official leadership capacity yet care about the mission of the church.

Visit lutheranleadership.com to see a full list of the keynote and breakout presentations and to find out more about those who will be presenting. Cost of registration is \$249.00 by October 31st, \$289 beginning November 1st. See Pastor Kehren if you are interested in attending.

ADULT CHOIR

Join us in helping glorify our Lord in song. No prior singing or musical experience is needed. Rehearsals will last around 30 minutes. Our first rehearsal is Sunday, October 6th, after the 10:30 am service.

CHINA MISSION OPPORTUNITY

There is an opportunity for teaching English through Bible stories online to children in China. It is a once a week hour commitment, and is usually early in the morning. There are no requirements for teaching except a heart for Jesus and a computer. The words and online program are given to you. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Tanya Kalbach (tanya_kalbach@sbcglobal.net).



WOMEN'S ADVENT PRAYER BREAKFAST

There will be a brief meeting after second service on October 13th to choose the theme and program for the breakfast. Anyone willing to help but unable to stay that day, please reach out to me in advance!

If you're interested in being involved in planning the program, music, decorations or food for this year's advent prayer breakfast, please contact Becca Vance. (vance.becca@gmail.com).

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

We will be collecting donations for care packages for our College/High school kid members who go away for school. Let's keep them connected to their Congregation! A collection bin will soon be available in the narthex with a list of ideas for items to buy. If you would like to make a cash donation to help buy more items for the packages and pay for postage, please speak to Carol Ruehrdanz, Marian Schoepfoester, or Amanda Browder. Donations will be accepted thru October 27th. And please always keep all our College/High school kids in your prayers! Thanks for your help!"

DEBT REDUCTION

We continue to be truly blessed with offerings in our congregation. The Lord has motivated our members through their thankfulness for their Savior to continue to faithfully contribute to our congregation. Unfortunately, due to lower than expected enrollment in our school, we had to borrow on our line of credit to make ends meet. Thankfully, some members have stepped up to offer a matching gift to help us reduce our debt. From October 1st through the end of November, every dollar in excess of our budgeted weekly offerings will be matched, up to \$10K!!! If we can get that full match, we should be able to clean out our current debt. No special envelopes required, just add it to your already generous weekly gift!



School News

Student Teachers

By: Isabela Iacob, Faith Vo, and Joseph Yoon

We are very excited to announce that, as in previous years, we will be having two new student teachers this school year! They started their student teaching on September 3rd.

Our first student teacher will be teaching in our 1st and 2nd grade classroom! Her name is Brittney Jensen. She's from Exonia, Wisconsin.

Our second student teacher is Rachel Hoffman and she will be teaching in the 3rd and 4th grade classroom.

She comes all the way from Buffalo, Minnesota.



Kickball Day

By: Joseph Georgian, Joseph Yoon, Isabela Iacob, Liyah Thomas

Last Friday, our 5-8 grade students rode to Bolingbrook to have our first ever kickball tournament. The students got to meet other students that come from the other schools in our Synod.

When the students first arrived, they were placed into their teams, and made friends with the other students. After lunch, our students gathered around the fields and began to play against each other. Every team gave it their all, and the games were very enjoyable.

While the older kids were away, the K-4 classes had their own kickball day. Their kickball day was here, at Jerusalem, and consisted of three teams that played against each other. They ended the day with a special treat, popsicles!



Reading Program

By: Mya Iusco, Jason Kehren, Alex Monroy, and Gabby Diaz

To encourage 3rd - 8th grade students to read books of different genres, our school partnered with the Morton Grove Public Library. Once a month on a Friday, the students will go to the library and librarians will give them a presentation on different book genres. Mrs. Felsing will also have a selection of books in that genre for the students to choose from. The students will be required to read one book of that type for the month. The school library will also provide books for the students to borrow.

Here are the genres being presented:

Historical Fiction, Fantasy/Science Fiction, Mystery, Biography/Autobiography, Nonfiction, Animal Fiction, Adventure/ Survival, Poetry.

Eagles of the Week

PK-8th grade students are recognized each week for their Christ-like attitude and academic effort. The first Eagles of the Week for this year were:

Mya Iusco
 Jack Becker
 Cameron Colianne
 Josiah Viruet
 Ayla Schiop
 Jesse Ceriale
 Liyah Thomas
 Kai Naka
 David Camacho

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Pastor Jonathan Kehren
Phone: 847-965-7340
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Worship Schedule

Sunday 8:00 and 10:30 am

*“Our purpose is to serve all people
with the gospel of Jesus Christ on
the basis of Holy Scripture”*

Pumpkin Fest
Wednesday, October 23rd
6:00 - 8:00 pm



Church and school families are invited for food, games, prizes and treats!

Dress up in your coolest, non-scary costume and come join the fun.